

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you agree with the
austerity measures being
proposed by the Fitial
administration?

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INSIDE



Renewed Search

Searchers hoping to find up to four survivors of a mine blast go back underground.

NATION...Page 10



Pricey Power

Electricity sold in the Philippines ranks as Asia's third most expensive commodity.

MAHARLIKA...Page 13



New Persona

Pierce Brosnan is moving far beyond his persona as James Bond.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

BECAUSE OF MINIMUM WAGE HIKES

GAO: Workers' earnings rose

12 pct.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The annual inflation-adjusted earnings of CNMI minimum wage workers who retained their jobs and full hours rose by about 12 percent from 2006 to 2008 as a result of the 50-cent minimum wage hikes that began in 2007, according to a U.S. Government Accountability Office report.

See GAO on Page 4

KEY FINDINGS

■ **WAGES:** About a third of private sector workers of responding employers were affected by the first minimum wage increase in 2007. GAO said future increases will affect the wages of 82 percent of the workers based on June 2009 data.

■ **EMPLOYMENT:** From 2006 to 2008, the number of people employed fell by some 27 percent based on CNMI tax data.

■ **EMPLOYER ACTIONS:** Employers

have started cost-cutting measures such as freeze hiring partly due to minimum wage hikes.

■ **INFLATION-ADJUSTED EARNINGS:** GAO estimates that from 2006 to 2008, average inflation-adjusted earnings rose by some 12 percent.

■ **WORKER VIEWS:** During discussion groups, workers generally expressed support for the minimum wage increases and cited factors affecting living standards.

BIKE PATROL

Bike Patrol trainer Jason Tarkong gives instructions to 10 of 11 DPS investigators who completed the 40-hour police bike course yesterday at the DFS parking lot. The officers will be assigned on a monthly basis to the Koban Unit in western Garapan. A koban is a small neighborhood police station.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



Camacho, Narvaez garner slots for nat'l language contest. **PAGE 2**
Joeten-Kiyu Library gets \$40k planning grant. **PAGE 5**

Local

Camacho, Narvaez garner slots in national language competition

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Two students from Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School won the most gold medals in the islandwide Chamorro Language Competition this school year, allowing them to advance to the national competition in June.

Kimberly Camacho, a 12-year-old sixth grader from GTC, bagged a total of eight gold medals in the dramatic interpretation, poetry reading, and original oratory categories. Early last month, she also won a gold medal in the original oratory category in the Guam Chamorro Language contest.

Arianne Narvaez, also a sixth grader, won a slot to the national event after garnering five gold medals this school year. She also won a gold medal in the duo interpretation at the Guam contest.

This year marks the second time the CNMI will be taking part in the national Chamorro language contest and Camacho



Kimberly Camacho, a 12-year-old sixth grader from Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, shows off her trophy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

and Narvaez's selection was based on the total gold medals they won.

According to Rose S.

Taimanao, GTC teacher and one of their coaches, the two students were consistent in getting the major awards in all Chamorro

competitions held here and off-island. PSS conducted four competitions throughout the school year including the re-

Reyes Corcueria, former vicar general, the apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

Corcueria's appointment will ensure the continuity of governance of the diocese.

Inos said Camacho's "character and life of service has been a model of hope to many of the Commonwealth's people."

"As he begins his retirement, we offer our warmest gratitude

and congratulations. We wish him continued health and success in all his endeavors," the acting governor said.

Camacho earlier said he is grateful to the pope for accepting his resignation and is looking forward to focusing his attention on regaining his health during his upcoming operation and medical tests. He also plans to continue working on his project of translating the Old Testament into his native Chamorro language as he has already completed a New Testament version.



Camacho

Administration lauds Bishop Camacho's 26 years of service

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos has expressed the Filial administration's gratitude to the now retired Bishop Tomas A. Camacho of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa for his 26 years of service.

Inos said this upon learning of Pope Benedict XVI's acceptance of Camacho's resignation and retirement. Camacho received word of the pope's decision on April 6.

"Bishop Camacho is a great pillar of moral strength in our

community. As we reflect on his many years of valuable and faithful service, Governor Filial and I commend and recognize his 26 years of commitment to religious service and his exemplary leadership to our local community," Inos said.

While the Vatican decides on who will be the next bishop, the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples named and appointed the Rev. Manuel

Reyes Corcueria, former vicar general, the apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

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gional rounds on March 27.

Last year, GTC student Christian Punzalan topped the tally for gold medals and was the first local student sent to compete in the national event.

Taimanao said they are very proud to see GTC students representing the CNMI in the national events for two consecutive years.

According to Harold Easton, chairman of the National Forensic League board, the two GTC students will join the CNMI team that will go to National Junior Forensic League events on June 24-27 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Camacho and Narvaez will complete the 13-member team of the Commonwealth, which includes the regional NJFL gold winners.

"It feels really good!" Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* upon knowing her selection to the national team.

She vowed to do her best in the competition where she also hopes to gain valuable experience.

Camacho began participating in Chamorro competitions since third grade. She was consistent in bringing awards to her family and school.

"It really helped develop my

Court relieves Bellas as counsel for suspect in fake Treasury bond case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court has relieved attorney Timothy Bellas as court-appointed counsel for Kent Sebastian Robinson, who faces charges of manufacturing a fraudulent \$200 million Treasury bond.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman ruled that, although there is no conflict of interest between himself and Bellas, he will relieve Bellas of his appointment in accordance with the request of the suspect.

"In an abundance of caution and in light of the fact that both Mr. Bellas and defendant have requested that Mr. Bellas be relieved of his duty, the court will relieve Mr. Bellas of his legal representation of Mr. Robinson," he said.

The judge said a new standby attorney will be appointed to Robinson, whose jury trial has been set for May 17 at 9am.

Robinson told the court that he has "fired" Bellas as his court-appointed counsel and objects to Bellas' representation because the lawyer is familiar with Wiseman in a social setting.

Wiseman informed Robinson that he cannot fire Bellas. He said any familiarity between him and Bellas would not conflict with the court's ability to be neutral arbiter in the case.

confidence and self-esteem," she said of the benefit she gained from the competitions. Camacho has been participating in the Guam competition for three years now.

Kimberly and Narvaez have already started their preparation with the guidance of their teacher-coaches Rose Taimanao and Jennie Magofna.

Once the students finalized the categories they want to compete in the national, they will prepare for the piece that they will present in both Chamorro and English.

Taimanao said holding the competition on island is also a way of encouraging students to promote, preserve, and strengthen the local language and culture.

Taimanao emphasized that the competitions also provide opportunities for students to advance in other academic contests in the nation.

The NJFL supports debate and speech activities for young adolescents in grades 6-8. The NJFL is a program of the National Forensic League and is modeled after the NFL high school honorary society, recognizing student participation in public speaking endeavors.

In his order, Wiseman said he and Bellas are acquaintances socially and professionally. The judge said Bellas has provided legal services to him on occasion.

Wiseman earlier warned Robinson that he would be held in summary contempt of court if he continues to be combative in his behavior.

At the recent scheduled arraignment, the 43-year-old Robinson refused to plead one way or the other. He also stated that he did not waive any right to counsel and that he has already fired Bellas. Robinson reiterated his position that he wishes to represent himself.

Robinson was arrested in the District of Columbia and brought to Saipan to appear at the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

The indictment charged Robinson with fraudulent uttering of a private security, making and uttering of a fictitious obligation, and mail fraud.

According to the indictment, on Dec. 19, 2008, Robinson made a counterfeited and forged document—a Secured Funding and Offset Bond worth \$200 million—that was paid to the order of Oceania Insurance Corp., a company registered in the CNMI. Oceania submitted the bond to the CNMI Insurance Commissioner as proof of its ability to do business in the CNMI.



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TO ENSURE SAFETY OF TOURISTS, BUSINESSES

DPS strengthens force in western Garapan



Ten Department of Public Safety investigators who completed the 40-hour police bike course pose with DPS officials, trainees, and Marianas Visitors Authority representatives during yesterday's graduation at Hard Rock Café's conference room.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has strengthened its force in western Garapan to ensure the safety of tourists and businesses.

DPS just finished training 11 police officers who will man its Koban's Bike Patrol Unit in Garapan.

DPS handed out yesterday afternoon certificates of completion to the investigators

who completed the 40-hour mountain bike course, held the past two weeks at the Duty Free Shoppers' parking lot in Garapan.

Police officers Jason Tarkong and Jesse Dubrall led the training.

Tarkong said that certifying additional Bike Patrol officers will help deter crimes against tourists and beef up patrol units in western Garapan. He said these Bike Patrol officers will run after prostitutes, burglars,

and illegal taxi operators. Sgt. Paul Ogumoro, commander of the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau, said the successful trainees will be assigned to the Koban on a monthly rotation basis.

CIB operations supervisor and Bike Patrol officer-in-charge Jeffrey Olopai said DPS deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro recently re-activated the Koban Unit after receiving a lot of complaints about prostitutes, illegal taxi operators, and

people loitering in the area. Olopai said they need to protect the safety of tourists because tourism "is now the only the remaining industry in the CNMI," quoting the Marianas Visitors Authority.

"It's a lot easier for us to entertain complaints because Bike Patrol officers are investigators too," Olopai said.

The 10 personnel who received certifications are PO1 Buddy Sean Igitol, PO1 Melissa H. Bauleong, PO1 Jona-

than SN Decena, Firefighter I Francisco Iginoef, PO1 Peter Raymond Camacho, PO2 Jackson Jack, PO1 Melinda D. Villanueva, PO1 Vincent Mareham, PO2 Eric F. David, and PO1 Patrick Sablan.

The 11th trainee, PO1 Sabino Cabrera, is off-island, according DPS.

Policewomen Bauleong and Villanueva said the first few days of training were tough, but it started to get easy toward the end of the course because of

constant practice.

Villanueva said Bike Patrol officers will be more effective than police cars in western Garapan as criminals could not see them approaching.

He said the bicycles are also good for the officers' health.

DPS Commissioner Santiago Tudela, DPS deputy commissioner Ogumoro, and MVA representative Bruce Bateman graced the graduation ceremony at the Hard Rock Café's conference room.

NMC regents eye two-day self-evaluation retreat

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College is planning a two-day self-assessment and evaluation retreat on April 29 and 30.

The first day of the retreat, announced during Thursday's special meeting, will focus on self-assessment and evaluation,

while the second day will have the regents' future plans and priorities on the agenda.

A planning and program committee will finalize the retreat's details, according to vice chair Paz Younis.

Saipan Tribune learned that all seven regents were provided self-evaluation forms that were supposedly due on April 1.

Younis said the board was

supposed to conduct separate meetings for self-assessment and retreat but budget concerns forced them to combine the two occasions in one day to save on expenses.

Although the projected cost has yet to be finalized, board members Andrew Orsini, Frank Rabauliman, and Malua Peter warned the board of "unnecessary" costs that may be incurred after finding out that a third-party facilitator from off-island

may be tapped for the retreat.

Regent Charles Cepeda, who participated in the deliberation via teleconference, suggested conducting the evaluation and retreat among the members first and then tapping a third-party facilitator's services in future events.

"I do agree to tap a third-party facilitator...but maybe it's best that we conduct the self-evaluation first among ourselves," Cepeda told members.

NMC currently operates on a budget of \$4.9 million. The college had a total workforce of 182: 76 faculty members and 106 staffers.

NMC proposed budget for next fiscal year amounts to \$9.9 million. Roughly \$5.7 million will be used for per-

sonnel and all other expenses while \$1.2 million will fund the college's vocational education program.

Besides its share in the local government's budget, NMC also generates revenue via tuition of students. It projects to collect \$3.1 million in FY 2011.

CPA junks 'unreasonable' trash collection contract proposal

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has junked the proposal submitted by the lone bidder for the agency's trash collection services, describing it as "unreasonable and excessive," and will be re-announcing solicitations for new proposals.

CPA comptroller Derek Sasamoto recommended the immediate rejection of the proposal and requested a re-announcement of the "request for proposals" during yesterday's special board meeting.

Sasamoto cited the tight financial budget of the agency as the main reason for his recommendation to reject the proposal. He refused to disclose, though, the name of the company that submitted the bid.

CPA's current trash collector is AYD, which has been charging the agency \$675 a month in the last two years. The contract has already expired and CPA has been paying for the

extended service under the same rate.

According to acting executive director Ed Mendiola, the new bidder's proposed monthly rate is \$1,402, which is a 208-percent increase over what CPA currently pays AYD.

Mendiola said that CPA pays AYD an annual cost of \$8,100. Under the new proposal, the agency will be paying \$16,800.

Based on CPA's procurement rules and regulations, Sasamoto said the agency is allowed to reject the proposal due to "unreasonable price."

Saipan Tribune learned that a bid can be rejected if it fails to conform with essential requirements such as specifications, unreasonable price, or non-responsive.

After the meeting, board chair Jose Lifoifoi pointed out that CPA, at this time, cannot afford to pay for any additional expenditure, citing the declining collections and revenues of both airports and seaports on the three islands.

**NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
RETIREMENT FUND**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its Special meeting Monday, April 12, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. at the NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. OLD BUSINESS
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
 - 1. Case No. 10-15427
 - 2. Bylaws
- V. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VI. MISCELLANEOUS
 - A. Announcements
 - B. Next Meeting
 - C. Adjournment

/s/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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EAGI panel recommends Mafnas' Senate confirmation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee has recommended to the full Senate the confirmation of Ramon "Ray" C. Mafnas as commissioner of the Department of Corrections.

EAGI Committee chair Sen. Fran-

cisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) and four other members said they reviewed all documents submitted relating to Mafnas's overall credentials, considered written testimonies, and heard oral testimonies given during public hearings.

"Putting all things together, based on our overall assessment of Mr. Mafnas' qualifications, experiences and other testimonials, amongst other things, we

are convinced that Mr. Mafnas possesses the qualification basis to serve as commissioner of the Department of Corrections," Cruz said in an April 5, 2010 letter to Senate President Paul A. Manglona.

In the two-page letter, the EAGI Committee said it "recommends that the full Senate... gives its advice and consent to confirm the appointment"

of Mafnas. Besides Cruz, the letter is also signed by EAGI Committee members Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), Sen. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofsneider (R-Tinian), and Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota).

"As I've said before, the EAGI Committee has been working cooperatively with the Fitial administration in reviewing the appointees, and we expect the administration to extend the same to the committee," Cruz told Saipan Tribune in a phone interview yesterday.

The Senate EAGI Committee has recommended the full Senate confirmation of all of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's appointees since the start of the 17th

Legislature, including Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta and Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan.

The committee held a public hearing on Mafnas's appointment on March 31.

Mafnas, who previously served as acting commissioner for both Corrections and the Department of Public Safety, had said that "there will be no inmate abuse under my watch" and vowed to protect the dignity and privacy of inmates.

A total of 20 government officials, employees and private citizens testified in support of Mafnas's appointment, and all of them urged the committee to recommend Mafnas's confirmation to the whole Senate.



SWEARING-IN

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, administers the oath of office for Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan, right, while newly sworn-in Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta and delegate candidate Joseph Camacho look on during a brief ceremony yesterday at the Department of Public Works in Gualo Rai.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

GAO

From Page 1

But CNMI Department of Commerce Secretary Michael Ada said the report is "flawed" and "horrible" due to questionable methodology.

GAO, the investigative arm of the U.S. Congress, released yesterday its 158-page report titled "American Samoa and CNMI: Wages, Employment, Employer Actions, Earnings, and Worker Views Since Minimum Wage Increases Began."

It said future increases will affect the wages of 82 percent of the workers of private sector employers who responded to GAO questionnaires.

Only about a third of those employers' workers were impacted by the first minimum wage increase in July 2007, said GAO.

The annual report on the impact of past and future minimum wage hikes in the CNMI and American Samoa is required by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

In its April 8, 2010, report to Congress, GAO said CNMI workers in discussion groups generally expressed support for the minimum wage increases and cited other factors affecting living standards.

The CNMI's current minimum wage is \$4.55 an hour. The next scheduled increase is in September instead of May, as a result of a law that President Barack Obama signed in December.

The law applied the first 50 cents per hour increase in July 2007, and mandated additional increases each subse-

quent year until the CNMI's minimum wage reaches the federal wage floor of \$7.25 an hour. The CNMI will reach that rate in 2015.

Earnings

CNMI government tax data show that average annual inflation-adjusted earnings declined by about 6 percent from 2006 to 2008.

"GAO estimated that annual inflation-adjusted earnings for minimum wage full-time workers who retained their jobs and hours rose by about 12 percent," GAO said.

But Ada said the inflationary cost considered is only that of Saipan.

"They didn't take into account Rota and Tinian," he said.

A bag of rice on Saipan, for example, costs a little over \$30, but the same item could go up to \$50 on Rota.

CNMI questionnaire respondents included hotels and other employers in the sectors of food service, utilities, construction, manufacturing, retail and transportation, as well as the CNMI government and other public sector employers.

Cap it

Ada told GAO that the CNMI proposes capping the minimum wage at the current rate of \$4.55 to allow an in-depth assessment to be conducted on the effects of the earlier and current minimum wage increases on private and public sectors.

Ada said the Department of Commerce is considering submitting a position paper to Congress. He is hoping that Congress will consider the CNMI's

proposal to cap the wage rate for now.

"We also propose that we let the economy adjust to the \$4.55 mark given the closure of the garment industry and the new immigration law," Ada told GAO director for International Affairs and Trade David Gootnick.

But GAO said in its response to Ada's March letter that the law does not permit additional time for the report.

ARRA requires GAO to submit the reports between March 15 and April 15 of each year.

Ada told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that only 33 of 61 employers turned in their questionnaires to GAO, and GAO surveyed only companies with 50 or more employees when most employers in the CNMI have much fewer workers.

He said the same things to GAO in March as part of the local government's official response to the draft report.

Ada, in a phone interview, reiterated the CNMI government's concerns on the GAO methodology.

"In my opinion, a 50 percent response rate is horrible, and the results, because they're not representative of employers, are misleading... I think that overall, the report is horrible. They didn't consider businesses with less than 50 employees and these are the bulk of employers here," said Ada.

GAO, however, said its report appropriately states the limitations of the questionnaire data and repeatedly notes that the data may not be representative of all CNMI workers and employers.

It addition, GAO determined that the most effective and least burdensome method of collecting information from

small employers would be to conduct discussion groups targeting these employers.

The federal agency said it obtained Social Security Administration data on the earnings, employment and demographic characteristics of individual taxpayers in American Samoa and the CNMI from 2005 to 2008.

It said while the SSA data cover all types of workers in American Samoa and was sufficiently reliable for GAO purposes, they exclude CNMI workers who are not subject to SSA withholding taxes. GAO said it chose not to report the CNMI SSA data because of these coverage gaps.

Employment

In its April 8, 2010 report to Congress, GAO said CNMI government data show that following the 2007 wage increase, employment continued an existing downward trend, largely reflecting the garment factory closures.

Small employers and other private sector officials expressed mixed views about the future increases, and many expressed greater concern about immigration changes.

CNMI immigration came under federal control on Nov. 28, 2009.

In questionnaire responses, employers reported having taken cost-cutting actions, such as freezing hiring, since the increases began and also reported planning such actions by the end of 2010.

Employers attributed their actions both to the minimum wage increases and to other factors.

Based on an analysis of responses

from CNMI employers in the hotel industry, GAO found that raising room rates to cover higher wage costs may cause a 2.6 to 13.7 percent decline in visits to the CNMI.

American Samoa

In American Samoa, the first minimum wage increase raised the wages of about three-quarters of workers at private sector employers that responded to GAO's questionnaire.

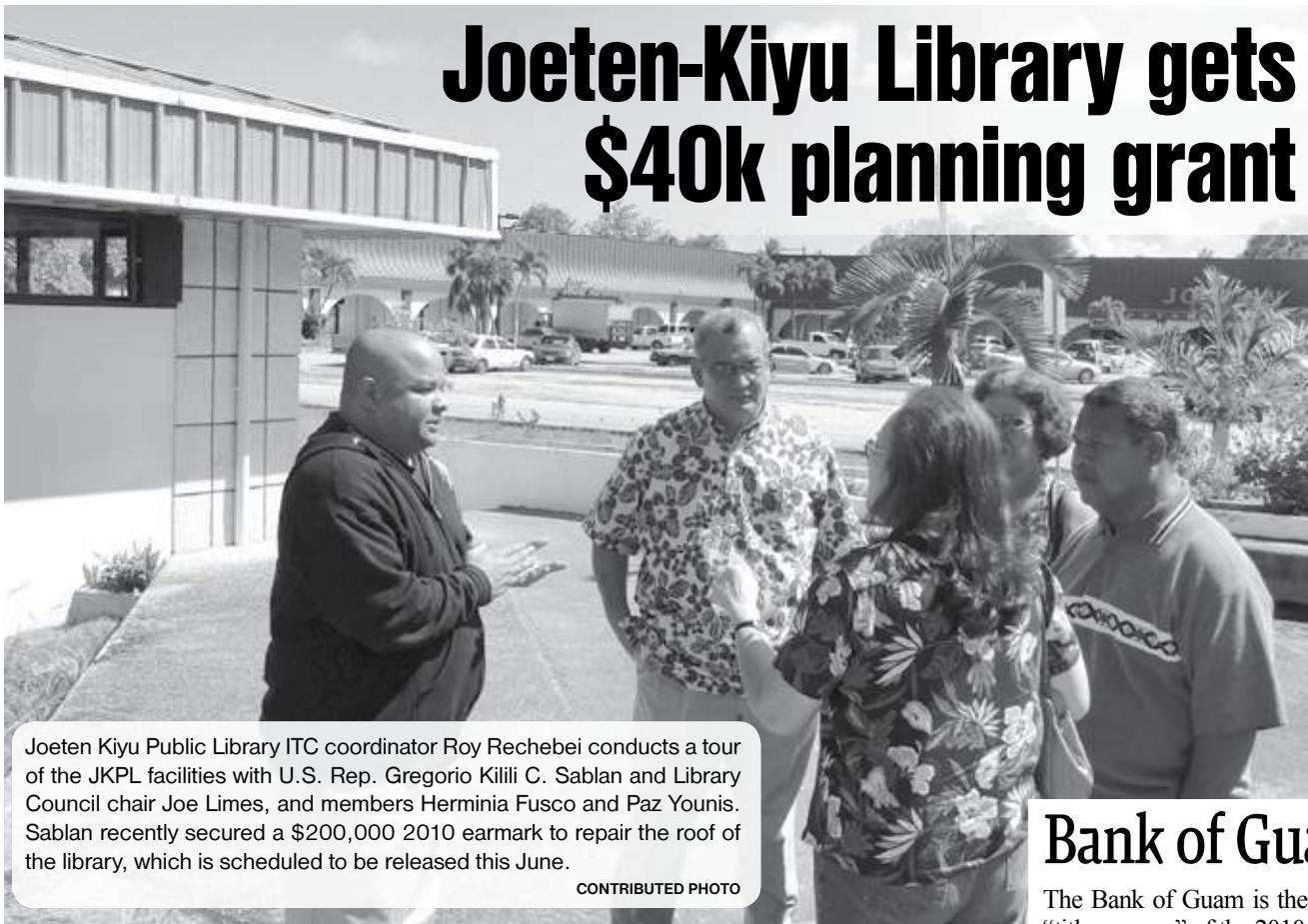
GAO said June 2009 wage data from questionnaire indicate that by 2016, the minimum wage increases would affect the wages of close to 95 percent of those employers' private sector workers.

Federal data show that median annual inflation-adjusted earnings in American Samoa declined by about 6 percent from 2006 to 2008. GAO estimated that inflation-adjusted earnings for full-time minimum wage workers who retained their jobs and hours rose by about 14 percent," GAO said.

In discussion groups, workers generally said that their support for the wage increases had dwindled because of concerns about issues such as the cannery closure, job insecurity, and loss of benefits, it added.

Earnings data show that employment grew from 2006 to 2008, while questionnaire responses show that employment dropped from 2008 to 2009. Since the September 2009 closure of one tuna cannery, employment has very likely continued to drop.

Cannery officials said that minimum wage increases were a significant contributing factor in the closure of one cannery, in addition to other factors.



Joeten Kiyu Public Library ITC coordinator Roy Rechebei conducts a tour of the JKPL facilities with U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan and Library Council chair Joe Limes, and members Herminia Fusco and Paz Younis. Sablan recently secured a \$200,000 2010 earmark to repair the roof of the library, which is scheduled to be released this June.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ex-Sumay residents to celebrate village's history

SANTA RITA, Guam—Former residents of Sumay Village and their descendants celebrating Sumay's past on Sunday, April 11, may enter Naval Base Guam via the back gate for ease of access. Windshield passes can be obtained at Agat, Piti or Santa Rita Mayors' offices. The event is from 9am to 4pm.

Planned by Mayors Ben Gumataotao, Piti, Dale Alvarez, Santa Rita, and Carol Tayama, Agat, at the invitation of Capt. Scott Gal-

breath, commanding officer Naval Base Guam, "Back to Sumay Day" will feature former Sumay residents and historians sharing stories of pre-war Sumay.

There will be a Mass at 10am celebrated by Archbishop Anthony Apuron. Sumay elders will share Sumay history with their descendants prior to fiesta lunch and being entertained by Rasan Acho Latte, the Skip Kids and Talent Box.

Sumay was one of the island's most prosperous vil-

lages with a population of 2,000 in the late 1930s. The proximity of Sumay to the Pan American Airways Apra Harbor water landing site and the Pan American Skysways Hotel, the Trans-Pacific Cable Station and the U.S. Marine Corps Barracks contributed to the village's prosperity. The location of the war-destroyed village was incorporated in 1944-'45 into the construction of the new Naval Operating Base, now Naval Base Guam. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Autism Awareness Month Walk set

April is Autism Awareness month in the CNMI and throughout the United States. Everyone is invited to join families and friends of individuals with autism and other disabilities for an Autism Awareness Walk on Sunday, April 11, at 3pm at the Last Command Post in Marpi for an Autism Awareness Walk. Light refreshments will be available for all participants. If you have any questions or need additional information, call Tom at 235-7273/4 or Larissa at 322-3761. (PR)

UOG recruitment drive on Rota, Tinian and Saipan

The University of Guam will visit Rota, Tinian, and Saipan during the month of April as part of their annual recruitment drive. A team from UOG's Enrollment Management and Student Services will share information about admission procedures, financial aid, and academic programs with high school seniors and their parents during the following days and times:

■ April 16: Rota High School beginning at 9am

■ April 19: Saipan Multi-pur-

pose Center at 6pm

■ April 20: Tinian High School beginning at 10am

Additionally, the math and English placement tests will be administered at various CNMI high schools.

For more information or to schedule a placement test at a high school in the CNMI, contact Dr. Julie Ulloa-Heath, dean of Enrollment Management and Student Services, at 735-2292 or julieuh@uguam.ug.edu. For additional information on registration deadlines visit www.uog.edu/registrationinformation. (UoG)

Free whale and dolphin identification workshop

The Coastal Resources Management Office will be hosting a whale and dolphin identification training workshop focused on identifying cetaceans from boat or shore. The public is welcome to attend this free workshop to learn more about CNMI's cetaceans and how to identify them.

The workshop will be held at the CRM conference room on Tuesday, April 13 at 2pm. Please note: the CRM office has moved to its new location on Middle Road in Spring Plaza, which is just south of and on the opposite side of Ace

Hardware or just north of and on the same side of the street as XO market.

For additional information, contact John Starmer, CRM, at 664-8303. (CRM)

Air Force training on FDM

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on April 12-16 from 6:30am to 8pm.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The general public especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from these areas during the times and dates indicated.

Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. (USN)

The Bank of Guam is the latest "title sponsor" of the 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer, joining an elite group of donors.

Bank of Guam will also be participating as a team, along with Garapan Elementary School at the Marianas March Against Cancer, scheduled this year on May 14-15 from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao.

Other title sponsors are DFS Saipan, Ltd., Joeten Charitable Foundation, Delta Airlines, Take Care/FHP, and Sorensen Media Group (Power 99/The Kat 97.9/ABC7).

All 12 teams participating in the march are now selling luminaries and raffle tickets. Purchase a luminary for only \$5 each to honor a cancer survivor or to remember a loved one who has lost the battle against this

dreadful disease. Each luminary may be individually designed by the purchaser and will be lit the entire night at the Marianas March Against Cancer event.

The 2010 MMAC teams are Ahu, Bank of Guam/Garapan Elementary School, Bodig, Docomo Pacific/Koblerville Elementary School, Grace Christian Academy, Hinemlo (DPH), IT&E/Saipan Southern High School, Marriage Encounter, Pacific Islands Club, Take Care/FHP, Tan Holdings and TSA Guardians.

There are also raffle tickets being sold for only \$5 each and prizes up for grabs include a free ticket to Asia, a free ticket to the U.S. plus other travel related items, courtesy of Delta Airlines.

All cancer survivors or those currently undergoing cancer

\$1,265,000 special appropriation for the library for fiscal year 2011.

The planning grant announced yesterday will allow Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, in partnership with the CNMI Museum of History and Culture and the CNMI Division of Historic Preservation, to conduct surveys of cultural records and resources and to identify which agencies will be responsible for organizing and preserving these records and resources.

Part of this grant will also be used to establish an emergency preparedness plan to secure all cultural collections, and to train staff on proper care and preservation of these sensitive collections.

This amount of the grant, which is award to all states and territories, is based on population and implements the recommendations of the "Heritage Health Index," a report on the health of all the nation's libraries and museums. (PR)

Bank of Guam named title sponsor of MMAC

treatment are invited to attend the annual survivor dinner and ceremony on May 14, at 6pm. All those who register and attend will be given a special medallion commemorating their battle against cancer along with a free t-shirt. To register for the free dinner contact 2010 MMAC survivor committee chair Nora Sablan at 235-0994 or via email at norasablan@gmail.com. The survivor dinner is sponsored by Take Care/FHP.

For team contact information, contact 2010 MMAC team recruitment committee chair Reina Camacho at 285-7677 or via email at reinacamacho@gmail.com.

For more information on the 2010 MMAC call 483-4207, email janine.nogis@gmail.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org. (PR)



NMC CACP Ambassador Jan Michael Reyes, left, and a CACP participant take a break during a study session to pose for a photo.

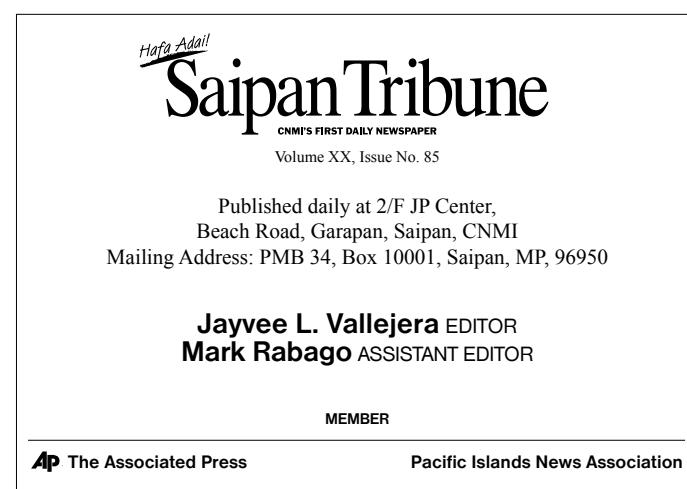
and first-year college students in the CNMI. Student participants can also schedule to meet with ambassadors and officials at NMC's As Terlaje campus.

Aside from tutoring and counseling services, CACP has also been instrumental in coordinating and facilitating many outreach activities hosted by the College. These include the Cash for College workshops and the Start Smart Seminars that were held on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. The Cash for College workshops in June and November of

"CACP has played a tremendous role in NMC's efforts to ensure that students are fully aware of the services and financial aid available to them as they pursue higher education," said NMC interim president Loraine T. Cabrera.

To learn how to become a CACP participant, contact Zenaida Javier at 234-5498 ext. 1343, e-mail zenaidaj@nmcnet.edu, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

Opinion



EDITORIAL

Questioning ethics

The new Office of Congressional Ethics recently did something significant and unusual—it persisted in a disciplinary case against a lawmaker who was quitting.

Too often in the past, members of Congress could avoid the taint of an ethics probe by resigning. Leaving office early is indeed punishment for a career politician, but quitting often allowed a lawmaker to avoid discipline that might have been meted out by a congressional ethics committee.

In most cases, the alleged transgression wasn't resolved. But the case of former Rep. Nathan Deal, R-Ga., is an important step forward in not allowing congressmen to evade their responsibilities.

The OCE believed Deal used his congressional office and his chief of staff to pressure Georgia officials to protect hundreds of thousands of dollars that his auto-salvage company earned annually from the state vehicle inspection program. The office referred his case to the House ethics committee for possible action. But just minutes before the committee's deadline to act on March 21, Deal resigned. Now he is a candidate for governor of Georgia.

In the past, Deal's resignation would have quietly ended the ethics probe. And voters in Georgia would not have been privy to any findings in the case. But five days after Deal's resignation, the OCE decided to release its 138-page report on the subject. It showed "substantial reason to believe" that Deal might have violated House ethics rules.

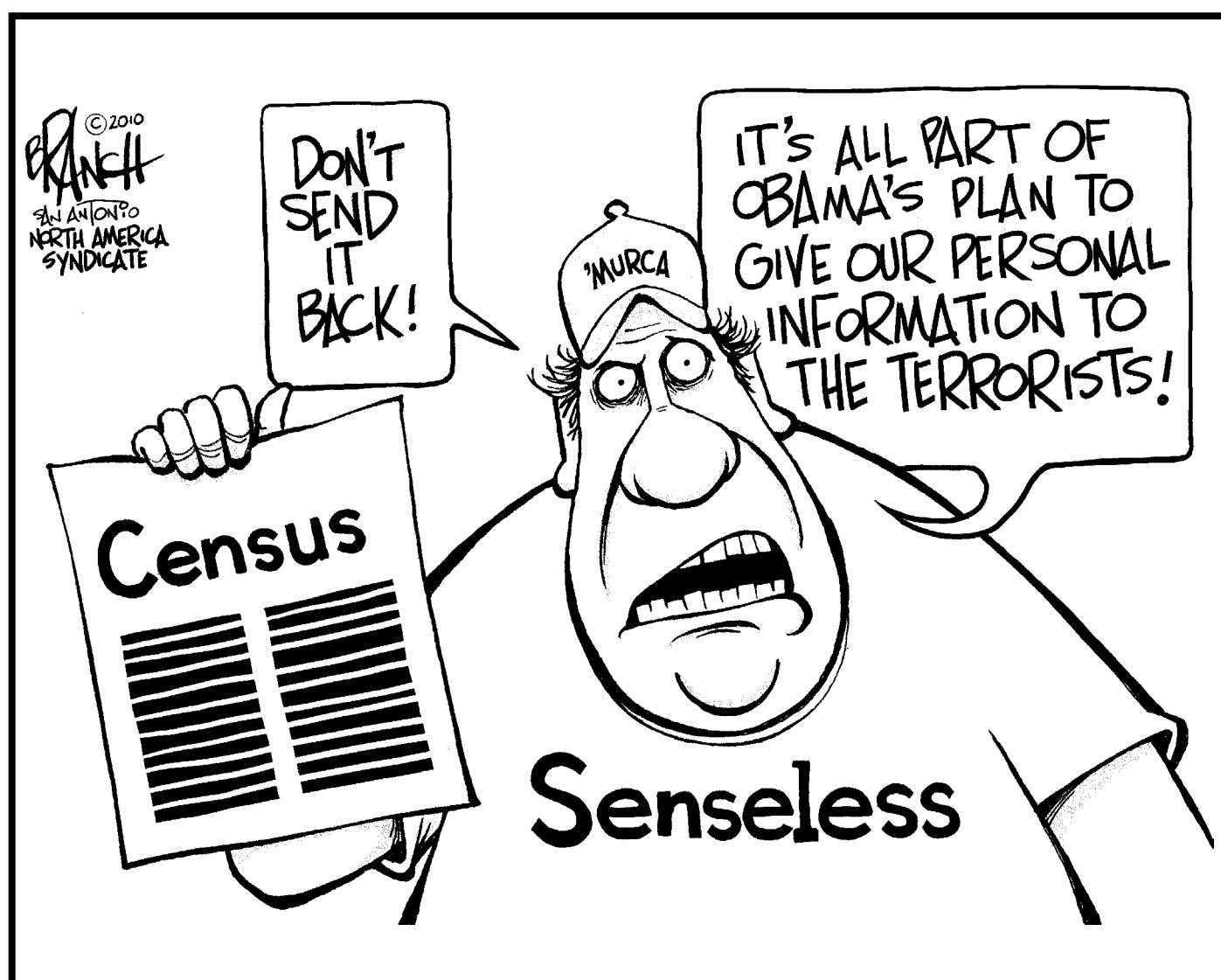
The office pointed out that no other House member from Georgia had gotten involved in motor-vehicle inspections, which is a state matter.

The OCE also found that Deal had failed to disclose to Congress \$75,000 that he earned from his salvage company, an outside-income amount that is higher than what is allowed.

House Democratic leaders pushed for creation of the OCE in 2007 to jump-start a broken ethics enforcement system. Since then, the new office has put welcome pressure on the House ethics committee to act in various cases.

Even when the committee doesn't get a chance to act, this new watchdog is serving the public interest by nailing down lingering questions. It's a needed change in attitude in Congress.

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Unfair rap: Pope has been at forefront of change

Whether the victim is a kidnapped sex slave in Thailand, a trafficked child camel jockey in the Persian Gulf states, or a fifth grader assaulted in an American elementary school, the fact that children and young people throughout the world are regularly subjected to sexual and physical abuse is a horror that ought to shock the conscience of humanity.

In the United States alone, there are reportedly tens of millions of victims of childhood sexual abuse. In the years between 1991 and 2000, according to Virginia Commonwealth University researcher Charol Shakeshaft, 290,000 students were sexually abused in American public schools. Worse yet, studies indicate that 40 percent to 60 percent of sexual abuse takes place within families—often at the hands of second husbands or live-in boyfriends.

Throughout the world, children seem to be the principal victims of lawlessness, wanton cruelty, the sexual revolution, and the hook-up culture that treats sex as a contact sport: one in which everyone, of any age, is a potential player.

Yet amid this global squalor, one institution has begun to come to grips with its past failures to protect the young people in its care. One institution has acknowledged its grave failures in the past. One institution has brought perpetrators of abuse to book. That institution is the Catholic Church.

Far more than the public schools, far more than the teachers' unions, far more than other organizations that regularly work with young people, and far more than countries that turn a blind eye on sex trafficking and childhood prostitution, the Catholic Church has addressed what Pope Benedict XVI has called the "filth" in its own house.

Catholicism has cleaned house in America, where the church is likely the country's safest environment for young people today (there were six credible cases of abuse reported in 2009: six too many, but remarkably low in a community of 68 million members). Now, the church has begun to scour the Augean stables of Irish Catholicism. A March 20 letter to Irish Catholics from Benedict unsparsingly condemned abusers and sharply rebuked bishops who failed to take these problems in hand decades ago and who covered up abuse; no one should doubt that a major shake-up of Catholic leadership in Ireland is coming.

By GEORGE WEIGEL
The Philadelphia Inquirer

George Weigel is distinguished senior fellow of Washington's Ethics and Public Policy Center and the author of *The Courage to Be Catholic: Crisis, Reform, and the Future of the Church*. Readers may send him e-mail at gweigel@eppc.org. He wrote this for the Philadelphia Inquirer.



Yet the global story line of the last several weeks is that the Catholic Church is an ongoing global criminal conspiracy of sexual abusers and their enablers, centered in the Vatican.

That the church has too often failed to address past problems of abusive clergy has been frankly admitted by everyone from Popes John Paul II and Benedict to the U.S. bishops in 2002. In 2001, the Vatican put in place new measures that enabled the Congregation

"Far more than the public schools, far more than the teachers' unions, far more than other organizations that regularly work with young people... the Catholic Church has addressed what Pope Benedict XVI has called the "filth" in its own house."

for the Doctrine of the Faith (led by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the future Benedict XVI) to deal more swiftly and decisively with clerical abusers. Those procedures are fully operational, and Benedict is determined to make them work—and to change any remaining sectors of the church that resist dealing with the church's "filth."

Recent reporting on Catholic sexual-abuse problems, however, has frequently been factually inaccurate and irresponsible.

It is charged that the church threatens whistle-blowers with ex-

communication; that is not true.

Prominent news organizations report that Cardinal Ratzinger blocked sanctions against a Milwaukee priest who abused deaf children in his care; that is not true.

Contingent-fee lawyers with a direct, financial stake in abuse cases (and in bringing the Vatican's resource within firing range of U.S. liability law) are cited as credible sources by newspapers that once knew what a disqualified source was.

Vicious editorial cartoons, some perilously reminiscent of Nazi-era anti-Catholic cartooning, abound.

Meanwhile, there is precious little investigative reporting on (much less cartooning about) sexual abuse in public schools, which

See CHURCH on Page 7

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A whiff of change in marijuana vote

The voters of trendsetting California may well decide this November to legalize marijuana—there's a ballot referendum, and 56 percent of Californians are in favor—and no doubt this would be great news for the munchie industry, the bootleggers of Grateful Dead music, and the millions of stoners who have long yearned for an era of reefer gladness.

Seriously, this is a story about how desperate times require desperate measures. Legalization advocates, including many ex-cops and ex-prosecutors, have long contended that it's nuts to keep criminalizing otherwise law-abiding citizens while wasting \$8 billion a year in law enforcement costs. That argument has never worked. But the new argument, cleverly synced to the recession mind-set, may well herald a new chapter in the history of pot prohibition.

It's simple, really: State governments awash in red ink can solve some of their revenue woes by legalizing marijuana for adults and slapping it with a sin tax.

So much of the marijuana debate used to be about morality; now it's mostly about economics and practicality—which is why New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island are also floating measures to legalize and tax; why similar voter referendums are in the works in Washington state and Oregon; why 14 states (including, most recently, New Jersey) have legalized medical marijuana, and why even Pennsylvania, hardly a pacesetting state, is weighing the sanction of medical pot, complete with 6 percent sales tax.

But California is the likeliest lab for a massive toke tax, given its dire financial straits and the fact that marijuana is the state's top cash crop, racking up an estimated \$14 billion in annual sales—twice as much as the No. 2 agricultural commodity, milk and cream. State tax collectors say that pot could put \$1.4 billion a year into the depleted California coffers, which helps explain why 56 percent of Californians like the legalization option, and find it preferable to the ongoing layoffs of teachers and other public servants.

Indeed, marijuana is reportedly the top cash crop in a dozen states,

Costs of working rise for parents of young children

I really thought it wouldn't get much worse than the unpaid college internship.

I raced from that gig in my duct-taped car to make it to my paying job as a waitress. I barely scraped by. But 20 years later, I'm horrified to realize that my ramen days were more lucrative than the illogical mess I've got going today.

Because right now, most weeks, I actually pay to work.

And I'm not the only one.

This is embarrassing and stupid, and I didn't want to talk about it for a while. Only recently, when I began quietly commiserating with others on the playground, did I learn that this is a common rite of passage for many parents of young children, when child-care costs are at their highest.

"Glad to know I'm not the only one out there. I was starting to think I'm crazy for still working," one mother who works at a university told me.

It's an increasingly commonplace situation among middle-class and professional women, according to a report released Tuesday by the Center for American Progress and the Center for WorkLife Law at the UC Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco.

Their report looks at the "Three Faces of Work-Family Conflict"—the poor, the middle class and the professionals—and how America's status as the hardest-working developed nation in the world clashes with the reality that we also have the paltriest options for family support.

There is the familiar narrative of low-income parents who figure out that it pays more to leave the crummy, minimum-wage job and collect welfare at home than to get child care. Often, when they do

Letter to the Editor

Something to think about

This letter is addressed to Rep. Stanley Torres and his bid for comments on the pros and cons of legalizing marijuana.

One of the pro opinions I read about the California proposal is that they are spending so much money trying to catch these people and they never finish their job. Not only that but the drug dealers are the ones getting richer everyday because we don't tax them, like alcohol and tobacco. Since they are costing us a lot of our tax money, why not tax them too like alcohol, and let them pay for their sins and the destruction they are causing in our community.

As for our children, God help us but to tell you the truth they are smarter than us about drugs, so don't you go assuming anything about it. Get these doctors and scientist to do research. There is a plant person at NMC-CREES; tell him to explain. Get a behavioral specialist to talk

and one of the top five in 39 states—valued annually at anywhere from \$36 billion to \$100 billion. That's a lot of money left on the table for the black market. In fact, five years ago, a Harvard economist concluded in a report that legal weed nationwide would yield at least \$6 billion in revenue if it were sin-taxed at rates comparable to alcohol and tobacco.

Actually, I doubt most stoners see themselves as sinners—what's immoral about seeing "Avatar" three times, or strip-mining a tray of brownies, or punctuating the conversation with lines like, "I'm sorry, what was I just talking about?"—but most would probably be willing to pay a "sin tax" in exchange for the opportunity to imbibe, hassle-free, with no fear that they might join the 765,000 Americans who were reportedly busted last year for possession.

Pot smokers have long been bugged by the stigma. When I covered a marijuana reform convention in Washington way back in 1977 (OK, yes, I'm old), a delegate from Illinois named Paul Kuhn spoke for many when he complained to me: "You can get rip-roaring, toilet-hugging, puking drunk in public, and that's OK. But if you pass a joint in public to a friend, you're a pusher."

But even the reformers of '77 said it was "naive" to believe that Americans would ever buy legalization. Today's generation is more shrewd; the word "legalization" doesn't even appear in the California ballot proposal. The proponents, including a retired Superior Court judge who got fed up with handling pot cases, are calling it the "Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act."

Frankly, California and other cash-strapped states don't have a whole lot of sin-tax options. Cigarettes and booze are already taxed to the max, and (as Philadelphia is discovering) any attempts to slap special levies on sugared water are fiercely resisted by soda companies that fear any curbs on their freedom to rot kids' teeth. By contrast, stoners crave the respectability of being taxed; the fiercest tax opponents are probably the Mexican drug cartels, which would lose market share just as the mob lost out on liquor when Prohibition ended in '33.

By DICK POLMAN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Dick Polman is a columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to him at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at dpolman@phillynews.com; blog: <http://www.dickpolman.blogspot.com>.



Granted, nobody quite knows whether or how the California pot plan would fly in practice. Pot use would still be illegal under federal law—the director of the National Drug Control Policy has said that "legalization is not in the president's vocabulary"—and the U.S. Constitution decrees that federal law trumps state law. On the other hand, the Obama team has stated that it has no interest in hassling the medical-marijuana states.

The big question is how such a sin tax would be structured. Would all sellers be licensed? Would it be a point-of-sale excise tax on top of the sales tax? It's worth pondering, because some state is bound to take the plunge, even if California's voters balk in November—which could happen because, favorable pot polls notwithstanding, conservatives riled up by health reform seem most energized to turn out in disproportionate numbers this year.

The bottom line is that public support for legalizing the crop has been building for a very long time. Gallup found only 12 percent of Americans in favor back in 1969, but 31 percent said yes in 2000, 36 percent said yes in 2005, and 44 percent said yes in 2009. The economic crisis has put wind behind the sentiment, and it seems inevitable that there will come a day—perhaps in the next major recession—when a presidential candidate will find it perfectly politic to speechify about the audacity of dope.

work, they deal with substandard child care, erratic work schedules, no sick days, no health care and other horrors.

But the report also focused on the "missing middle," American families that are squarely middle-income, caught between being too well off for subsidized child care but not well off enough for a one-income household.

One solution might come with President Obama's proposal this week to double the child-care tax credit for families earning less than \$85,000 and to increase federal funding of programs by \$1.6 billion. More help like this is necessary because quitting a job to stay home with children, especially in this economy, is a shortsighted solution.

"If you're leaving the work force to take care of your kids, that financial calculus may make sense in the immediate year or two," said Heather Boushey, a senior economist with the Center for American Progress and an author of the study. "But looking at the long-term economic health of a family, that can be devastating."

When you step off a work path, you lose seniority, experience, benefits—workforce capital that is difficult to regain once the kids are in school (assuming they go to a free public school, of course). Boushey calls taking time off for child care a "lifetime pay penalty" for some parents.

"I think there are more people in this boat than people are aware of," said Julia Christian, who, as executive director of the Capitol Hill Chamber of Commerce, doesn't earn enough to cover the cost of her daughter's day care.

"The next logical question, of course, is, why work?" Christian said. "When it's not for a paycheck, you have to start talking about sense of self and professional accomplishment and seniority and

By PETULA DVORAK
(c) 2010, The Washington Post

Dvorak is a columnist for The Washington Post.



pride. That's a hard argument to win."

According to the National Women's Law Center, the percentage of women in the U.S. work force has increased by 35 percent since 1980. And the typical American middle-income family put in an average of 11 more hours a week at work in 2006 than it did in 1979, according to Boushey's report.

But the availability and affordability of child care are not rising at the same rate.

Affordable child care is often a 9-to-5 solution. And when you work longer than the day care center is open, your child-care options are suddenly frighteningly narrow and complicated. It's a high-wire juggling act that feels held together with tape and spit: babysitters, aftercare, school, preschool, nanny.

And most of us really can't afford all that.

So we call it an investment, paying to work for a couple of years, digging into savings and cutting to the bone before the kids are in school.

And once that happens, it'll be nice to finally stop eating ramen.

CHURCH

From Page 6

is demonstrably far greater than in the Catholic Church.

To be sure, the Catholic Church ought to hold itself to a higher moral standard than other similarly situated institutions. But after too long a period of denial, the Catholic Church is now at the forefront of combating the sexual abuse of the young in the United States. And no one in the church has done more, over the last decade, to compel the sclerotic institutional culture of the Vatican to face these problems than Joseph Ratzinger, Pope Benedict XVI.

These are the facts. Thus the concern naturally arises, on this Easter, that those who continue to portray Catholicism as a global conspiracy of sexual predators are indulging in the last acceptable prejudice, anti-Catholicism, while aiming at nothing less than the destruction of the Catholic Church's credibility as a global moral teacher.

about it too, and drug enforcers and other people who know the history of how alcohol was legalized and its current impacts.

Another way of making money, Rep. Torres, is to check these health care insurance people. What do they do that they collect so much from us and pay our hospital very little? For God's sake, please put a price control on these health insurance companies because they are more expensive than life insurance.

Ti chamorro enao, i man ma sasagan na man baba, siha enao taotao otro lugat, baba drugs niha, sa ha na fan saki i taotao ta yan ha na fan malagno.

Winnie Atalig
San Jose Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Palau	Thundershowers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 57
Beijing	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 37
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 77 ▼ 65
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 80 ▼ 70
London	Showers	▲ 62 ▼ 42
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 51
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 93 ▼ 75
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 62 ▼ 56
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 79 ▼ 70
New York	Sunny	▲ 61 ▼ 48
Osaka	Showers	▲ 65 ▼ 54
Paris	Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 41
Pusan	Showers	▲ 55 ▼ 52
Rome	Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 46
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 62 ▼ 43
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 55 ▼ 51
Seoul	Cloudy	▲ 57 ▼ 46
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 53
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 68 ▼ 52

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:33 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.7 Feet
11:41 AM	Today	Low Tide: 0.9 Feet
5:03 PM	Today	High Tide: 1.6 Feet
11:36 PM	Today	Low Tide: 0.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:07 AM	6:31 PM	Today	3:04 AM	3:04 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:31 PM	Sunday	3:40 AM	3:51 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM	Monday	4:15 AM	4:38 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM	Tuesday	4:50 AM	5:26 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM	Wednesday	5:27 AM	6:16 PM

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A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 7, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM				GUAM-ROTA (ROP)			
C09597 5:00am 5:30am 1, 5				C09598 6:30pm 7:00pm 4, 7			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily				C09316 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily				C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily			
C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7				C09600 10:05am 10:55am Daily			
C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm Daily				C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7			
C09605 6:35pm 7:25pm Daily				C09604 5:10pm 6:00pm Daily			
C09599 9:35pm 10:25pm Daily				C09606 8:10pm 9:00pm Daily			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287 5:55am 8:35am Daily				DL290 10:00am 2:35pm Daily			
DL297 3:35pm 6:15pm Daily				DL298 10:30am 3:05pm Daily			
DL289 4:35pm 7:15pm Daily				DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
0Z608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 5				0Z607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 4, 7			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z604 2:20am 6:10am 1				0Z605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7			
0Z604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				0Z603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7			

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral

Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center

Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish

Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish

Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish

Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish

Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota

Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota

Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish

Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish

Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish

Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios

Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad

Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan

Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8:10-10:30pm

Saturday Tagalog Service: 8:10-30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7:30pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan

Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan

Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30-7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan

Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4:45pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan

Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English): 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog): 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church

Koblerville
Sunday Services 9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)

Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 10, 2000

Tenorio: Each gov't agency must shoulder utility cost

Due to increasing utilities costs of the government, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has underscored the need to change the present system where the budget of the executive branch covers payment of the power, water and sewer needs of all departments and agencies. He said a new scheme in which each branch of government is responsible for its own utilities costs, must be put in place to encourage public offices to conserve energy. At present, the executive branch, while cornering the biggest chunk of the fiscal budget, pays for almost every office in the government including the Legislature, the judiciary, departments as well as autonomous agencies such as the Public School System, the Northern Marianas College and the municipal offices on the three islands.

Only FDIC-member banks can come in to CNMI

Foreign banks that are not a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation have thin-thread chances of penetrating the strong banking sector in the Northern Marianas unless their assets exceed \$100 billion, commerce officials said. The commerce department is also bent in encouraging all banking institutions in the Northern Marianas, even local banks that were grandfathered by the existing banking laws, to secure membership with the FDIC. At present, Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation is the only non-American financial company without FDIC insurance that was able to come into the CNMI.

April 10, 2001

Rota asks for higher budget

Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona is asking the Tenorio Administration for a higher budget ceiling due to what he said was the need to meet increasing operational expenditures. "For the last three years, our budget level has become stagnant while costs of operation continue to escalate. Employees continue to receive their annual five percent within grade increase," said Mr. Manglona. He pointed out that a limited number of employees have been classified or promoted while a large number are awaiting reclassification and promotion due to the amount of responsibility and level of work performed.

PSS central moves to Capitol Hill

The Public School System Central Office has found a new home at the new Retirement Fund building on Capitol Hill, finally giving up its Nauru Building headquarters. The agency's big move to the northern part of the island, closer to more government offices such as the Governor's Office and the Legislature, is expected to expedite more business transactions with other public agencies. The PSS central staff under its posh new surroundings occupies the entire NMIRF third floor building and two-thirds of the second floor level. Now occupying a more compressed working area as opposed to the PSS staff's dispersed existence at Nauru building, double efficiency in operations is anticipated to transpire among central staffers, according to PSS Capital Improvement Projects Coordinator Chris Fryling.

April 10, 2002

CUC revives water desalination plan

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation said yesterday it would soon desalinate its water, initially in Garapan, as the American Memorial Park plans to invest about \$1 million in federal money to put up its own water system. As this developed, House Rep. William Torres said the allotted \$1-million for a water project in Chinatown and Chalan Laulau may be reprogrammed due to CUC's apparent failure to implement the project. Among the questions in the house-to-house survey and inspections conducted by the agency's Water Task Force is whether or not the customers are "willing to pay more for desalination."

DD Council eyes US grants

The CNMI Governor's Council for Developmental Disabilities is seeking federal funding assistance for the procurement of new assistive devices, according to Executive Director Thomas J. Camacho. The Council, Camacho said, is applying for a \$250,000-grant from the Assistive Technology Alternative Financial Program. In the last couple of years, the Council secured \$92,000 grant to initiate Partners in Policymaking Academy, a Family Support Grant and a \$50,000 federal assistance to fund the purchase of one accessible van now being used to provide transportation services to people with disabilities and the elders, and a \$50,000 Real Choice Systems Change Initial Grant to jump-start the bigger grant.

Business

Geithner China visit likely to result in currency shift

WASHINGTON (AP)—Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner's surprise visit Thursday to China yielded no immediate change in China's currency policy.

But analysts predicted the Obama administration's efforts to mend frayed relations will result in a currency change, possibly within weeks.

A move to let the yuan rise in value against the dollar would benefit U.S. exporters. The undervalued Chinese currency has made Chinese goods cheaper for American consumers. But it's hurt U.S. companies by making their products costlier in China.

Analysts cautioned, though, that any appreciation of the yuan will likely be gradual. They suggested that a rise in the yuan's value would be limited to 3 percent to 5 percent annually. That would be similar to the process China adopted in 2005, only to halt in 2008 as the global economic crisis deepened.

Geithner met for about 75 minutes Thursday in the VIP lounge of the Beijing airport with Vice Premier Wang Qishan, China's top economic official.

"The two sides exchanged views on U.S.-China economic

Shoppers hand retailers a basket of Easter cash

NEW YORK (AP)—Shoppers are finally coming out of hibernation.

Better weather and an earlier Easter enticed Americans to shell out for spring clothes in March, the fourth straight month of gains for retail sales. Target, Macy's, Gap and the parent of Victoria's Secret all beat Wall Street expectations.

The improvement was broad, spanning discounters, mass merchants, specialty stores and luxury retailers. The gains offer strong evidence that people are feeling more confident in the economic recovery and are more willing to spend.

Retailers had several factors on their side. The earlier holiday combined with comparisons to notoriously weak sales in March 2009 had analysts expecting solid improvements. But it's also clear that shoppers' mindset is changing. "There was a lot of talk about the frugality of the American consumer and that the recession taught people to save more," said Sherif Mityas,

a partner in the retail practice at management consultant A.T. Kearney. "But U.S. consumers have short-term memories."

The monthly index excludes Wal-Mart Stores Inc., which stopped reporting monthly sales last year. Jim Herget, shopping in West Chester, Ohio, with his granddaughter, added some DVDs to his cart at a local Walmart.

relations, the global economic situation and issues relating to the upcoming economic track dialogue," the Treasury Department said in a statement afterward.

Neither side acknowledged that currencies had been discussed. But analysts noted that Geithner was accompanied by David Dollar, Treasury's economic and financial emissary based in Beijing and a key administration official involved in the currency issue.

Treasury had announced only on Wednesday that Geithner would make a previously unscheduled stop Thursday in Beijing after a two-day trip to India.

Analysts saw the discussions as part of an elaborate diplomatic dance. Both countries are trying to cool tensions that had flared over U.S. arms sales to Taiwan and a meeting between President Barack Obama and the Dalai Lama.

To help mend relations, Obama spoke for an hour with Chinese President Hu Jintao on April 1. And the Chinese announced that Hu would attend a Washington nuclear conference set for next week.

Shoppers hand retailers a basket of Easter cash

of 31 retailers compiled by the International Council of Shopping Centers.

The gains were partly driven by pent-up demand from shoppers tired of cutting back, said John Long, retail strategist at Kurt Salmon Associates.

"Moms are beginning to shop for themselves, after shopping in their closets the last two years," he said.

Analysts study the monthly sales reports because most economists agree a robust turnaround in consumer spending, which accounts for as much as 70 percent of economic activity, is essential for any long-term recovery.

"If you factor out the Easter shift, as well as easy comparisons, you're still seeing significant improvement," said Ken Perkins, president of RetailMetrics, a research firm.

It was the biggest yearly gain since March 1999, said ICSC chief economist Mike Niemira. He said Easter probably accounted for about half of the increase, and added that figures from this month will provide a more complete picture of consumer spending.

Target Corp., Saks Inc. and Nordstrom Inc. said spring clothes sold well, particularly shoes and women's clothing. Overall, sales in stores open at least a year rose 9 percent in March, based on an index

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Astronauts take 1st spacewalk of shuttle mission

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Two astronauts are spacewalking outside the International Space Station. Rick Mastracchio and Clayton Anderson, members of Discovery's visiting crew, ventured out early Friday on the first spacewalk of their mission. They will remove a new ammonia tank from the shuttle and disconnect the station's old tank that supplied the cooling system. It will take three spacewalks to complete the job. Mastracchio and Anderson were supposed to do some battery work on the far left end of the space station, along the sprawling power truss. But NASA canceled the task this week because of concern the two might get shocked. The work instead will be carried out on the next shuttle flight, once astronauts' suits are better protected.

Officials: Colo. deputy used stun gun on students

LEADVILLE, Colo. (AP)—A sheriff's deputy in Colorado has been placed on unpaid administrative leave after he used a stun gun to shock 30 students at a high school career fair. Officials with Lake County High School, in the small central Colorado town of Leadville, say the students asked the deputy to shock them so they knew what it felt like. Two students were treated for minor burns at a local hospital and released. School Superintendent Betty Kokenes told Denver's KUSA-TV that she didn't know the stun gun was being used on the students and that it wasn't an authorized activity. Sheriff's officials say the incident shouldn't have happened. The deputy's name hasn't been released.

Stepdad of NJ girl defends 3 accused of raping her

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—A horrifying case—a gang rape of a 7-year-old allegedly sold by her teenage stepsister to armed men—grew more bizarre when the girl's stepfather showed up outside the Trenton courthouse Thursday to say that three of the five accused men had actually tried to help the girl. He was summoned to the courthouse by family members of the suspects, who have his phone number on speed dial, a seemingly strange alliance amid a crime that has inflamed a poor community. "These three had nothing to do with nothing; I don't know why they locked them up," the stepfather said of Gregory Leary, 20; Timear Lewis, 19; and a 17-year-old whom authorities have not identified because of his age.

Rescue crews back in WV mine to look for survivors

MONTCOAL, W.Va. (AP)—Searchers desperately hoping to find up to four survivors of a mine blast that killed 25 went back underground early Friday, while workers above pumped nitrogen into the earth to flush out dangerous gases that have kept rescuers at bay.

The search teams were wearing oxygen masks and carrying four spares on the slim chance the men had made it to airtight emergency rooms and were waiting to be saved more than three days after the nation's deadliest mine disaster in decades.

"We committed to the families we were going to get into the chambers within 96 hours and we're doing everything in our power to do that," said Kevin Stricklin, a coal administrator from the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Air holes drilled into the Upper Big Branch mine have ventilated lethal carbon monoxide, highly explosive hydrogen and methane, which has been blamed for the explosion, but not enough to make the atmosphere safe, so nitrogen tankers were to start pumping.

"I believe the families are relieved that this process has started," Gov. Joe Manchin said.

By the time teams reach the area where the survivors might be, the nitrogen pumping will have started, Stricklin said. They will be wearing breathing gear. Stricklin estimated it should take the teams an hour and a half to reach the search area.

Once methane levels inside the mine have dissipated, the nitrogen will be sucked back out so the air inside the mine will return to normal, Stricklin said.

On Thursday, searchers spent four hours working their way by rail car and on foot through the mine and came within 500 feet of a rescue chamber where possible survivors may be, but turned around when the air became too toxic. When told to abandon their mission, they were angry, but their safety was paramount, said Chris Adkins, chief operating officer for mine owner Massey Energy Co.

Teams were headed first to an



AP People take part in a candlelight vigil walk through town Wednesday, April 7, 2010, in Whitesville, W.Va., for miners involved in an explosion at Massey Energy Co.'s Upper Big Branch mine.

Promises, promises: Mine safety fixes fall short

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)

—After a 2006 West Virginia mine explosion killed a dozen miners, coal companies spent more than \$1 billion on new safety measures that did nothing to save the lives of at least 25 more men under similar circumstances this week.

The problem is that the safety reforms passed into law since the Sago mine disaster were focused

almost exclusively on sustaining trapped miners long enough to rescue them, not on preventing underground explosions.

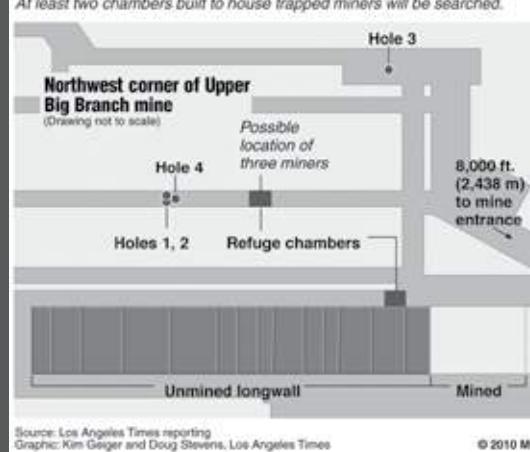
The result? Victims of Monday's blast at Massey Energy Co.'s Upper Big Branch mine probably died without ever getting a chance to use any of the expensive safety gear installed at the mine.

"That argues for doing more on the preventative side," said National Mining Association lobbyist Bruce Watzman. "We need to be doing both."

After Sago, where 12 miners died after being trapped for two days following an explosion, West Virginia and then Congress pushed through reforms that ordered mines to stockpile emergency oxygen, build so-called "ref-

Rescue effort

The search continues for four miners still missing in West Virginia mine. At least two chambers built to house trapped miners will be searched.



Source: Los Angeles Times reporting
Graphic: Kim Geiger and Doug Stevens, Los Angeles Times

uge chambers," and install sophisticated wireless communications systems and other gear.

Based on surveys of mine operators, Watzman estimates the industry has spent at least \$1 billion to comply with those rules in the nation's nearly 500 coal mines.

West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin said those changes have helped, but lawmakers never considered beefing up prevention measures and still haven't, Watzman said.

"There was really no opportunity, unfortunately," he said.

Industry officials and regulators agree that whatever reforms result from the Upper Big Branch mine should be focused on preventing explosions and other disasters.

Kentucky lawyer and safety advocate Tony Oppegard says the agency needs to push Congress to mandate six inspections of underground mines each year, rather than four.

"I've been saying this for years, but it certainly falls on deaf ears at MSHA (the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration)," Oppegard said.

States push to pay teachers based on performance

ATLANTA (AP)—For parents and politicians hungry for better schools, the idea of paying teachers more if their students perform better can seem as basic as adding two and two or spelling "cat."

Yet just a handful of schools and districts around the country use such strategies. In some states, the idea is effectively illegal.

That could all be changing as the federal government wields billions of dollars in grants to lure states and school districts to try the idea. The money is

persuading lawmakers around the country, while highlighting the complex problems surrounding pay-for-performance systems.

Some teachers, like Trenise Duvernay, who teaches math at Alice M. Harte Charter School in New Orleans, want to be rewarded for helping students succeed. Duvernay is eligible for \$2,000 a year or more in merit bonuses based on how well her students perform in classroom observations and on achievement tests.

"It's a reward for doing

what we all have a passion to do anyway—making sure our kids master the skills they need in order to be successful," Duvernay said.

Other teachers, like Debra Gunter, a middle school math teacher in Cobb County, Ga., say teachers can't control which kids walk into their classrooms.

"Your mother and father just got a divorce, your grandfather died, your boyfriend broke up with you: those kinds of life-altering events have an effect on how you do in class that day, through no fault of the teacher

whatsoever," said Gunter, echoing the position espoused by major teacher unions.

Some researchers have found student achievement improves when teachers get performance bonuses. Others have found no correlation.

Matthew Springer, director of Vanderbilt University's National Center on Performance Initiatives, said the problem is that there are only a handful of valid studies, most from other countries.

"I think the jury is still out," he said.

airtight chamber that has at least four days worth of food, water and oxygen. Besides finding possible survivors, crews will eventually be recovering the 18 known dead. Seven bodies have been recovered and two miners survived with injuries in the worst coal mine disaster in more than two decades.

Sen. Robert Byrd's office said Thursday that MSHA told the West Virginia Democrat it had ordered the mine evacuated 61 times since the start of 2009, although it was unclear what prompted those or whether they were full or partial evacuations.

Massey's chief executive officer, Don Blankenship, continued to defend his company's record and disputed accusations from miners that he puts coal profits ahead of safety.

Prosecutors: Pelosi feared for family after calls

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The man charged with threatening House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was so livid over the health care overhaul that he made at least 48 calls to her offices and homes, leading the Democrat to fear that her family might be in danger, federal prosecutors said Thursday.

Gregory Lee Giusti, 48, of San Francisco cried and looked disheveled in a gray T-shirt and khakis as he appeared for the first time before Magistrate Judge Bernard Zimmerman, who said Giusti may have bipolar disorder and should be receiving treatment.

Zimmerman initially refused a request by Giusti to be released to a halfway house, saying he would be able to walk away from such a facility.

Prosecutors said Giusti made at least four dozen calls to the San Francisco and Washington, D.C., offices of Pelosi between Feb. 6 and March 25.

Pelosi told the FBI the caller had used "extremely vulgar and crude language" on two occasions when she answered the phone at her Washington residence. She also thought her family might be in danger.

In one recorded call, Giusti said, "if you pass this freaking health care plan don't bother coming back to California cause you ain't gonna have a place to live," according to a transcript of the message included in an amended complaint.

Officials said the caller often recited Pelosi's home address and said if she wanted to see it again, she should not support the health care overhaul bill that since has been enacted.

Giusti left at least two recorded messages containing threats involving one of Pelosi's residences in Northern California, according to the complaint.

Asia

NATO helicopter downed in southeastern Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—A helicopter belonging to international forces in Afghanistan went down in the country's southeast, NATO reported Friday. A spokesman for the Taliban said its fighters had shot it down, but an Afghan official said it appeared to have crashed due to mechanical failure, causing four deaths.

A NATO spokesman said only that the helicopter went down overnight in the southeastern province of Zabul, and that no other details were known about the incident, which was under investigation.

A Zabul government spokesman, Mohhamed Jahn Rasuliyar, first said the helicopter appeared to have been shot down, but changed that later to say the cause appeared to have been technical failure.

He said the crash site was about 7 miles (11 kilometers) from the provincial capital of Qalat, further away than originally reported. He said there were reports of four deaths among those aboard the chopper, the type of which he did not know.

Qari Yusuf Ahmedi, a spokesman for the Taliban insurgency that is active in the area, said militants had shot down the aircraft around midnight. The report could not be independently confirmed and the insurgents have a history of false and exaggerated claims designed to promote their cause of driving foreign forces from the country.

Choppers are used extensively by both NATO and the Afghan government forces to transport



and supply troops spread out across a mountainous country with few roads. Losses have been relatively light, despite insurgent fire and difficult conditions and most crashes have been accidents caused by maintenance problems or factors such as dust.

Lacking shoulder-fired missiles and other anti-aircraft weapons, the Taliban rely mainly on machine guns and rocket propelled grenades to target helicopters at their most vulnerable during landings and takeoffs.

One of the heaviest single-day losses of life for allied forces occurred on June 28, 2005, when 16 U.S. troops died aboard a Special Forces MH-47 Chinook helicopter that was shot down by insurgents.

Thai protesters march, vowing to revive TV channel

BANGKOK (AP)—Thousands of protesters, intensifying their monthlong campaign to oust the government, headed in a vehicle caravan to a northern Bangkok suburb Friday, aiming to restore their vital television channel after it was shut down by the government.

Defiant leaders of the "Red Shirt" movement initially said they would march to undisclosed locations across Bangkok, pledging the biggest rally yet in their drive to oust Prime

Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and force new elections.

Then they switched plans Friday morning, with protest leader Nattawut Saikua telling followers, "We're all moving in one direction. We're going to bring back our People Channel." The government security agency estimated that 15,000 people were in the motorized caravan.

Their initial plans to rally at 10 sites would have spread the demonstrators too thinly, said a protest leader, Sean Boonpracang.

Columns of protesters, riding motorcycles and pickup trucks, moved out of their two main encampments, Bangkok's key commercial district and an area in the historic heart of the capital, toward Thaicom Public Company, which had been the carrier for the PTV, or People Channel, satellite station.

The government has declared a state of emergency but shown no signs it would use force to stop the escalating anti-government demonstrations.

ASIAN BRIEFS

NKorea's parliament likely to focus on economy

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament convenes an annual session Friday expected to show solidarity and perhaps indications of the impoverished and reclusive nation's future leadership and economy. The Supreme People's Assembly meets one day a year in Pyongyang to approve bills vetted by the ruling Workers' Party. The rare sessions are closely watched for clues to changes in the regime's power structure. Last year's gathering marked leader Kim Jong Il's triumphant return to the public eye after months out of sight amid rumors he had suffered a stroke in 2008. He looked markedly gaunt, but his presence confirmed he was in charge of the communist nation of 24 million.

Ruling coalition leads Sri Lankan elections

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's ruling coalition led early results Friday of parliamentary elections in which President Mahinda Rajapaksa is seeking to strengthen his grip on power by gaining a two-thirds majority. Results released by the elections department showed Rajapaksa's United People's Freedom Alliance bagged 111 seats from a total of 225 while the

main opposition United National Front won four seats. The initial release was less than 10 percent of the results, and the full vote won't be released before evening. The coalition led by Rajapaksa's main challenger in the January presidential poll is yet to win a seat. Former army chief Gen. Sarath Fonseka is under detention and facing a court-martial alleging that he planned his political career while still in uniform.

Pakistan edges closer to banning domestic violence

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan (AP)—For seven years, her husband taunted, threatened and thrashed her, she says. After she filed for divorce, he struck again, throwing enough acid on her face to destroy her left eye. Why didn't she leave sooner? Or turn to the police for help? Zakia Perveen's scarred lips are quick to explain: She would have become a pariah in her conservative Pakistani town of Jhelum. "People don't appreciate women who go to police stations," the 38-year-old says. "I just thought it was my destiny, my fate." Rights advocates hope a proposed law banning domestic violence will chip away at such attitudes, giving women a more even playing field and bringing Pakistan in line with a growing number of developing nations that have outlawed spousal abuse.

World



U.S. President Barack Obama, left, and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev, right, shake hands at a press conference after signing the newly completed "New START" treaty reducing long-range nuclear weapons at the Prague Castle in Prague, Czech Republic Thursday, April 8, 2010.

AP

Nuke treaty signed, but menacing arms issues lurk

PRAGUE (AP)—The nuclear weapons cuts President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed on Thursday would shrink the Cold War superpowers' arsenals to the lowest point since the frightening arms race of the 1960s. But they won't touch the "loose nukes" and suitcase bombs seen as the real menace in today's age of terrorism.

"This ceremony is a testament to the truth that old adversaries can forge new partnerships," Obama declared. "It is just one step on a longer journey."

The warheads covered by the

treaty are lethal relics of the Cold War, and even with the planned reductions there will be enough firepower on each side to devastate the world many times over. And of more immediate concern are attempts by terrorist groups such as al-Qaida and nations such as Iran and North Korea to acquire or use nuclear weapons.

Obama and Medvedev showed solidarity for a spring showdown with Iran. And, beginning Monday, leaders of 47 countries will gather in Washington in an effort to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, crack down on illicit nuclear trafficking and lock

down vulnerable nuclear materials around the world.

Introduced Thursday with trumpet fanfare, the two grinning presidents sat at an ornate table in Prague's hilltop presidential castle and put their signatures to a landmark successor to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. Nearly a year in the making, the "New START" signaled a bold opening in previously soured U.S.-Russia relations. If ratified by both nations' legislatures, it will shrink the limit of nuclear warheads to 1,550 each over seven years, down about a third from the current ceiling of 2,200.

Israeli PM calls off trip to nuclear conference

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's Prime Minister called off his trip to Washington next week to attend a conference on the spread of nuclear weapons, officials in his office said, fearing Israel would be singled out over its own nuclear program.

Benjamin Netanyahu had said he would attend the conference to underline the dangers of terrorists acquiring nuclear weapons, but suddenly called off the

trip less than two days after he announced he would take part.

Officials in his office said early Friday that Netanyahu reversed himself because some nations planned to use the conference to target Israel over its barely concealed nuclear weapons program.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because no announcement has been made. In Washington, National Security Council spokesman Mike Ham-

WORLD BRIEFS

Slum disappears in Rio mudslide; 200 feared dead

NITEROI, Brazil (AP)—They are all gone. The Evangelical church where worshippers were praying. A daycare center where kids were playing. The pizza parlor where a family was eating. All were buried under a mountain of mud, garbage and stone when yet another landslide hit metropolitan Rio de Janeiro late Wednesday. This one swept through the Morro Bumba slum, engulfing as many as 200 people and 60 homes. Nothing was left behind but a massive crater of blackened, sodden earth and the remnants of flimsy brick shacks. "I had just picked up my 10-year-old son from the day care. We walked down the hill to the street, and within 10 minutes, my community collapsed," said Patricia Faria, 28, crying as she watched heavy machinery dump the remains of her life into a waiting truck. "All I have left is what you see on me—and my son. Thank God, I have my son."

Emaciated children signal crisis in southern Sudan

AKOBO, Sudan (AP)—Three-day-old Odong Obong lay in the hospital bed, his pencil-thin arms almost motionless and his shriveled, gaunt face re-

sembling that of an elderly man. Emaciated babies and young children throughout the ward bore the signs of hunger: exposed ribs and distended stomachs. Outside, old villagers reclined motionless in the shade, too frail to walk. The U.N. calls this the "hungriest place on Earth" after years of drought and conflict, with aid agencies already feeding 80,000 people here. A doctor says the worst is yet to come.

Police take over from army in Mexico border city

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—Mexican army troops were pulled off Ciudad Juarez's streets Thursday and replaced by thousands of federal police officers who will take over the fight against drug-related violence that claimed over 2,600 lives last year in this border city. With lights flashing and helicopters churning overhead, dozens of blue-and-white federal patrol cars, trucks and armored cars streamed onto the streets, with helmeted officers scanning boulevards once plied by tan army humvees. About 412 federal vehicles, eight armored units, 90 motorcycles and four aircraft will patrol this city of 1.3 million, across the border from El Paso, Texas, that has become a battleground for drug routes heading north.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, April 10, 2010

Voting starts today for OFWs in the NMI

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saiplantribune.com
REPORTER

Overseas absentee voting for registered Filipino workers in the Northern Mariana Islands starts today at the Philippine Consulate General.

According to the consulate, they will be open today at 8am to administer the absentee voting process and will remain open until 4pm.

Registered absentee Filipino voters will be voting for their country's next president, vice president, 12 senators, and a party-list in connection with the elections in the Philippines on May 10, 2010.

The schedule of overseas voting in the CNMI lasts from April 10 to May 10, 2010.

The consulate general estimates over 7,000 registered voters in the Commonwealth and is expecting a big turnout during this year's election.

Voters are advised to bring their passport or voter's ID to the consulate for proper identification.

After the opening day on Saturday, the accomplished ballots can be submitted at the consulate Monday to Fri-

vies) from 9am to 4pm; and Monday, May 10, 2010 (last day) from 8am to 8pm.

Accomplished ballots can either be sent by direct mail to the consulate at P.O. Box 500731

CK, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950 CNMI, USA or brought directly to the consulate on the 5th



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In this file photo, former Philippine consul general for Saipan Wilfredo DL Maximo, right, assists a Filipino voter during the last absentee voting held on Saipan in April 2007. The consulate general on Saipan will be holding today the start of the absentee voting for the May 2010 election.

Pinoys in UK first to cast votes

By JAMES MANANGHAYA
THE PHILIPPINE STAR

LONDON—It's all systems go for the start of the month-long overseas absentee voting today, the Philippine embassy here said.

Emmanuel Guzman, third secretary and vice consul, said they are not expecting any glitch in the OAV, which could draw more than 8,500 registered voters all over the country, the largest in Europe.

"We expect the process to be in order. We do advise registered voters to visit the embassy website for advisories, particularly those who have ballot envelopes for collection at the embassy, as well as to carefully follow the printed instructions on properly accomplishing a ballot," Guzman said.

The Commission on Elections began mailing the election packets to registered voters last month, and the embassy is getting ready to officially receive mailed or dropped-in ballots beginning April 10.

Comelec prepared

Comelec Commissioner Armando Velasco, chair of the Committee on Overseas Absentee Voting, said the poll body is prepared to hold the overseas absentee voting in a total of 93 posts in almost 180 countries worldwide starting tomorrow.

"We are already prepared and we have conducted the testing and sealing of the PCOS (precinct count optical scan) machines. Our team is already preparing to go to Hong Kong and Singapore to see the first day of the elections," Velasco said in a press briefing yesterday.

Comelec said a total of 589,830 overseas Filipinos have registered to participate in the 2010 OAV, which will continue until May 10.

The Comelec official said they will coordinate with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) for the holding of the OAV and the first automated OAV in Hong Kong and Singapore.

He said the OAV is set to use three modes of voting—postal voting, personal voting and the

automated system.

While Hong Kong and Singapore are using the automated system, the poll official said that some 46 embassies and consulates-general are set to use postal voting while another 45 foreign posts will undertake personal voting.

Singapore and Hong Kong have been selected to utilize the PCOS machines because of the large number of registered voters, totaling 31,851 and 95,955, respectively.

Velasco said absentee voters can only vote for president, vice president, senators and party-list to be written on the OAV ballot form measuring 14 by 4.5 inches.

Absentee voters may cast their ballots from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (the time of the host country) on Saturday.

For the succeeding days, however, voting will start at 8 a.m. and end at 6 p.m. (Philippine time). Foreign posts may adopt a flexible eight-hour schedule, according to an OAV resolution.

"After voting hours on May 10, canvassing shall follow at designated Philippine embassies. The respective chairmen of the special Board of Canvassers are then directed to transmit immediately the results of the canvassing to the Philippines via fax or other electronic means followed by personal delivery to the Philippines," Velasco explained.

"Through the actual elections we will see whether or not this (automated system) really works. I think we will learn more about the process," Velasco said.

Meanwhile, Velasco said they will be closely monitoring the more than 21,000 registered seafarers to avoid multiple voting since they are eligible to vote in any post.

"At the end of each voting day, each post shall report to the COAV the list of names of seafarers who have already voted. This will be communicated to all other posts in order to avoid double voting," Velasco said. *With Helen Flores*

Remittances seen growing by 8-10 pct. in Q2

By MICHELLE REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Remittances may grow again at a double-digit rate in the second quarter as improving global economic conditions push demand for Filipino labor.

This was according to projections by First Metro Investment Corp. (FMIC) and the University of Asia and the Pacific in their joint monthly publication entitled, "The Market Call."

FMIC and UA&P said remittances could grow by as much as 10 percent in the second quarter over a year ago. This means remittances are projected to reach \$4.75 billion to \$4.84 billion in the second quarter from \$4.4 billion in the same period last year.

EXCHANGE RATES	
DOLLAR	PESO
\$1.00	= P44.8

As of yesterday, April 9, 2010.

Source: <http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>

floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Counting and canvassing of votes will be held at the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe on May 10, 2010, at 8pm where all votes will be accepted and counted.

The canvassed results of the overseas absentee voting in the CNMI will be brought directly by the chairman of the Special Board of Canvassers to the Philippine Senate and the Commission on Election in Manila on the first available flight from Saipan to Manila after the canvassing of votes.

The certified list of overseas absentee voters appears in the Comelec Web site at www.comelec.gov.ph and may also be viewed at the consulate.

Filipino absentee voters who cannot personally pick up their ballots may call the consulate at 234-1848 to make arrangements for claiming their ballots. Look for Romeo Gachitorena, Violaflor Enerlan-Ancheta, or Lauren Arce.

The Philippine Consulate General advises all registered Filipino overseas absentee voters to exercise their right to vote and to vote wisely for the candidates that will be their country's future leaders.

"Remittances are definitely on their way to stability," the two institutions said, citing continued demand for Filipino workers from the healthcare, education and services sectors.

In 2009, remittances grew by 5.6 percent to \$17.3 billion from \$16.4 billion the previous year.

The growth defied projections by most economists, who said remittances to the Philippines will contract because of the adverse effects of the worldwide recession.

Demand for Filipino workers, however, continued to grow, thereby allowing remittances to still grow, albeit at a much slower pace from the double-digit growth rates registered the previous years.

Philippine power is third most expensive in Asia

By VINCENT CABREZA
INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

BAGUIOCITY, Philippines—Electricity sold in the Philippines ranks as Asia's third most expensive commodity, thanks to the decisions made by all presidents since 1986, according to an industry expert here.

To remedy the situation, Row-

aldo del Mundo, a University of the Philippines engineering professor consulting for the International Finance Corp., has asked rural electric cooperatives (RECs) to compete with industry giants.

By doing this, Del Mundo said electric cooperatives in the provinces would bring the cost of elec-

tricity, a task that former presidents Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada, and incumbent President Macapagal-Arroyo have failed to do.

Speaking to employees of the Benguet Electric Cooperative (Beneco) last week, Del Mundo said expensive electricity has pulled down industry sales from negative 1 percent to negative 3 percent each year since 2005. "This illustrates how difficult it has been for government to attract industrial investors," he said.

Some of the blame belonged to the four presidents, who each responded poorly to the power crisis, he said.

Every time an administration encountered nationwide blackouts, the government embarked on the construction of new power plants that caused supply to escalate beyond the demand, Del Mundo said. (But due to laws that guaranteed power generation firms returns on their investments, whether the electricity was being bought or not, power rates remained high.)

Each new government program to build a power plant added to the expenses passed on to consumers to explain the high power rates, he said.

But with the help of IFC, 22 of Mindanao's 33 RECs have calculated how much electricity they would need in the future to keep the cost of power plant construction there at manageable rates, he said.

The Association of Mindanao Rural Electric Cooperatives (Amrec), he said, was ready to

Tanay, Rizal. The PNP filed a motion for reconsideration before Branch 78 of the Morong regional trial court, which allowed the transfer of the detainees. (*INQUIRER.net*)

6 areas may be placed under Comelec control

MANILA, Philippines—Due to threats of violence, six cities and provinces may be placed under the Commission on Elections (Comelec) control during the May 2010 elections. Comelec Commissioner Lucenito Tagle said the Commission is currently deliberating on the possibility of putting at least six areas under their direct control. Tagle said the Comelec received formal requests to declare Zamboanga del Sur, San Manuel in Pangasinan, Iloilo City, Nueva Ecija, Maguindanao and Ilocos Sur under their supervision. "They almost have the same reasons, but we will ask the opinion and recommendation of the PNP," said Tagle, who chairs the Committee on Ban on Firearms and Security Personnel. Tagle said Libangan Vice Mayor Wilson Nandan filed a formal petition seeking the placing of the town under Comelec control while the others submitted letter requests to the Comelec.

(*The Philippine Star*)

Villar shrugs off disqualification complaint

MANILA, Philippines—The Nacionalista Party was not at all surprised by the disqualification case filed by Liberal Party at the Commission on Elections against presidential candidate Manuel Villar. Villar himself laughed off the vote-buying charge, saying in an interview that the basis of the two LP senatorial candidates' case was weak. He said that the awarding of the scholarship grants was done way before he filed his certificate of candidacy, and not during a rock concert dubbed "Rockatropa" at Pasay City in February. The show – held after the presidential campaign had begun – was produced by Villar's daughter, Camille. Villar also insisted that there was nothing wrong with handing out P20 bills to children during campaign rallies because they were voters in the first place. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

1 hurt in Valenzuela fire

MANILA, Philippines—A man sustained second-degree burns in a fire that razed a commercial establishment in P. Santiago Street, Valenzuela City, mid-Friday morning, the city fire department said. The man, identified as 53-year old Robert Santiago, was brought to the nearest hospital for treatment. Initial reports said that fire struck a wood lumber shop at 11:16 a.m. As of posting time, the fire has reached Task Force Alpha. (*INQUIRER.net*)

Explosions rock Zamboanga del Sur

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Two explosions rocked Titay town in Zamboanga del Sur late night Thursday but no injuries were reported, police said. The first blast from an improvised explosive device took place at 8 p.m. outside the house of mayoralty candidate George Castillo in Poblacion village. A few minutes later another IED exploded at the village hall of San Antonio. Police are still investigating the incidents. In Kabasalan town, three persons were injured in another explosion also Thursday evening, this time from a grenade. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

Military retains custody of 38 health workers

MANILA, Philippines—The military will retain custody of the 38 health workers who were returned to them Friday after the Philippine National Police filed a motion for reconsideration before a local court that ordered the transfer of the detainees to a police camp. "With the PNP's timely filing of motion for reconsideration to transfer detention venue for lack of suitable facility and security concerns during hearings, we were compelled to maintain the status quo and bring the detainees back to Tanay detention center," said Lieutenant Colonel Ernesto Torres, Jr., Army spokesman, in a text message. "In the meantime, we will continue to coordinate closely with the PNP as we await the court's decision on the final disposition of the detainees," the military spokesman said after the health workers were moved back to Camp Capinpin in

DUE TO MOVES BY PAST 4 PRESIDENTS



AP

A female protester displays her placard as she joins a protest near the presidential palace Friday, April 9, 2010 in Manila, Philippines. The protesters called on the government to oppose the plan of the main distributor of electricity to increase their charges despite the current blackouts experienced by consumers in the country. Text on placard reads "Lower the cost of electricity."

build community power plants to help control power rates.

Del Mundo has been advocating the Amrec initiative among power distributors in Luzon and the Visayas.

He said the key to reducing high power rates would be to get community-based power industry players to compete against big corporations, which have started to buy up power plants.

Del Mundo said he was referring to the Lopez Group of Companies and the Cebu-based Aboitiz Group of Com-

panies, which have bought most of the plants that used to be administered by the National Power Corp.

He said high power rates already made the local power industry profitable, which has drawn the interest of various firms.

But only the participation of non-profit players like RECs can ensure that power rates would not increase further under a fully liberalized power industry.

The privatization of Napo-

cor assets is mandated by the 2001 Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira or Republic Act 9136), which broke up the Napocor monopoly into distinct power transmission, distribution, supply and generation sectors to help rationalize the rate of electricity.

But based on how Epira was enforced, Del Mundo said both government and private companies pocketed the savings gained from a more efficient system, instead of translating them into lower power rates.

Philippine Supreme Court allows gay party in polls

By OLIVER TEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine Supreme Court on Thursday overturned a decision barring a gay rights group from contesting national elections in May and recognized it as a legitimate political party for the first time.

Voting 13-2, the court threw out decisions by the Elections Commission denying accreditation to Ang Ladlad (Out of the Closet) on grounds that it tolerates immorality and offends Christians and Muslims.

The justices said the party had complied with all legal requirements, and that there is no law against homosexuality.

"I felt vindicated," said the group's leader, Danton Remoto, an English professor at the Jesuit-run Ateneo de Manila University. He said that Ang Ladlad had struggled for recognition and accreditation for the past seven years.

The Elections Commission caused outrage among gays and liberals in November by saying the group cannot run as a political party because it "tolerates immorality which offends

religious beliefs." Three of the commissioners cited passages from the Bible and the Quran to justify their ruling, claiming that Ang Ladlad exposes young people to "an environment that does not conform to the teachings of our faith."

Homosexuals are generally accepted in the Philippines and many prominent Filipinos are openly gay, despite the dominant Roman Catholic religion's rejection of same-sex relations.

The group has received support from Leila de Lima, head of the independent Commission on Human Rights, who denounced the November ruling as "retrogressive" and smacking of "discrimination and prejudice."

The group filed a case in January with the Supreme Court, which said that government is neutral and no legal impediment should be imposed on groups on religious grounds.

"The denial of Ang Ladlad's registration on purely moral grounds amounts more to a statement of dislike and disapproval of homosexuals, rather than a tool to further any substantial public interest," the court said.

Ang Ladlad is one of more

than 100 parties seeking to win 50 of the 286 seats in the House

of Representatives allocated for marginalized sectors.

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19 Filipino sailors in hijacked tanker—DFA

MANILA, Philippines—Somali pirates on Sunday seized a South Korean-owned ship with 19 Filipino crew members, the Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed Monday.

Citing the report of the Philippine embassy in Nairobi, the DFA said the Marshall Island-flagged M/V Samho Dream was hijacked by Somali pirates northeast of Somali Basin on Sunday. Aside from the 19 Filipinos,

five South Koreans are said to be onboard the ship. The 300,000-ton Samho Dream was seized Sunday on its way from Iraq to the US state of Louisiana.

The DFA said its Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs (OUMWA) is closely coordinating with the vessel's principal, the local manning agency, and the Philippine embassies in Nairobi and Seoul

for the early resolution of the case.

There are now 24 Filipino seafarers on board four vessels, held captive by Somali pirates.

In a related development, an AFP report citing the military said a South Korean warship is rushing to the area where Somali pirates hijacked a South Korean oil tanker with 24 crew members aboard.

A South Korean destroyer, which

was in the Gulf of Aden on anti-piracy operations, has been ordered to move to waters off Somalia, a Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesman told AFP.

"The destroyer is sailing in a hurry to catch up with the hijacked ship," he said.

But the spokesman declined to say whether the 4,500-ton destroyer with about 300 soldiers on board has been ordered to intercept the hijacked ship.

Somali pirates have given no word yet but the South Korean government will not engage in any negotiations with them, the foreign ministry said.

Instead the ship's owner, Samho Shipping, based in the southern port city of Busan, will be in charge of any negotiations, it said.

The company said the tanker's captain had remained out of contact.

Somali pirates, targeting one of the world's busiest maritime trade routes, raked in an estimated \$60 million in ransoms last year.

A South Korean tuna ship with 25 crew was hijacked by Somali pirates in April 2006. The ship and its crew were released after four months when a ransom was paid.

In 2007 Somali pirates seized two South Korean vessels and 24 crew. The crew were released after six months in captivity.

Pirates also hijacked a South Korean cargo ship with 22 sailors in September 2008. The crew were released after the ship's owner paid a ransom. (*INQUIRER.net, Agence France-Presse*)

Study says two regions efficiently use OFWs' remittances for development

By JEREMIAH M. OPINIANO
OFW JOURNALISM CONSORTIUM

MANILA—Philippine regions with higher growth rates used remittances for development efficiently, a paper by a University of Santo Tomas economist finds.

College of Commerce Assistant Dean Ma. Socorro Calara said these are the Cordillera Administrative Region, Southern Tagalog region, and the National Capital Region. Her study cited these regions were more efficient in making remittances contribute to regional productivity, which is measured by gross regional domestic product or GRDP.

Calara's paper was featured at a research forum the same week government officials said that the overall gross domestic product of 0.92 percent in 2009 was the lowest in 11 years.

Titled "Remittances and Regional Performance for the Philippines," Calara's paper looked at data from the triennial Family Income and Expenditures Survey (FIES) from 1988 to 2006.

Using FIES results in the same period, Calara also culled data on cash received from abroad or remittances received by households of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

These were then juxtaposed with GRDP data, as well as regional data on personal consumption and government spending, and investments from 1998 to 2006.

Calara's econometric calculations showed that the highest efficiency score is one. The NCR, CAR and Southern Tagalog consistently earned that score.

The next highest scores in Calara's computations went to Central Visayas (0.99); Davao region and Western Visayas (both 0.98); and, Zamboanga and Northern Mindanao regions (both 0.97).

The scores reflect how remittances migrant households received seeped in efficiently or not to regional development activities.

Even if regions such as Ilocos (0.69 average), Cagayan Valley (0.79) and Central Luzon (0.91) got more remittances since they had more overseas migrants and more remittances than other regions, these regions are in the bottom rungs in Calara's study.

Ilocos is even the least efficient region of all 17 regions covered by the study, while Central Luzon is only 10th overall.

Calara argued that her study is valuable to regional development since it is in the birthplaces of overseas Filipinos were the remittances are used to stir local economic activity.

"The (household members) of migrants are the immediate recipients of remittances. Whether these remittances are spent to purchase basic commodities, durable goods or are invested in productive endeavors, it is the region which ben-

efits from such activities —whether directly or indirectly through the multiplier effect of remittances and the subsequent stimulus to labor," Calara wrote.

Calara's paper also looked at how many of the 14 regions with data were efficient in development, with and without remittances.

She came into the latter result by deducting a region's remittances data from GRDP and regional personal consumption expenditure.



AP
A billboard of a telecommunications company dwarfs a Filipino woman employee as she works at Manila's International Airport, Philippines, Thursday April 8, 2010. A paper by a University of Santo Tomas economist finds that Philippine regions with higher growth rates used remittances for development efficiently.

Since some regions were already efficient, Calara wrote that remittances "do not contribute to efficiency" and "have no effect on [that region's] regional efficiency performance".

CAR, Southern Tagalog and NCR are part of this grouping.

But for eight of the 14 regions found to be inefficient in 2006, Calara said the results may mean that remittances may have had a positive effect, had no effect, or have a negative effect on regional development. (*OFW Journalism Consortium*)

TAKE CHARGE

Money advice for new graduates

transportation, clothing, and others. Live within your means.

4. Open a separate bank account for savings, different from your payroll account. This will be for your savings. Ideally, you should deposit money here regularly and make the money grow for future consumption. Ideally, too, you should take out the money meant for your savings (at least 10 percent of your income) as soon as you get your pay, so you won't be tempted to spend all of your income.

5. Save up for an emergency fund. Make this your priority for saving. Build up a fund equal to three to six months' worth of your expenses so that if anything happens—you lose your job or get sick—you can have a fund to dip into to help you in your day-to-day expenses. Don't touch this fund unless there's an emergency (thus the name). You can put this fund in a time deposit or money market account for easy access.

6. Once you have saved up enough money for an emergency fund, tackle your other savings goals. Save for that car or dream home in the future. Don't forget to start saving for a retirement fund because the earlier you do it, the better as compound interest will make your money earn even more without you doing anything. To give your savings a kick (in terms of growth), look into investing them in instruments or accounts that may give you more interest or yield than what a savings account may offer. Talk to your bank for more details.

7. Get insurance coverage. You'll never know what's going to happen, but it pays to be prepared always. Take out a life insurance policy if you have dependents. Buying life insurance while you are young also means paying for lower premiums. If your company does not give free health insurance, make sure you get one for yourself. With health care costs escalating and more so as you get older, it will do you good to have some form of coverage in place.

8. Read up on financial matters. Sharpen your financial IQ by reading more about personal finance and attending personal finance seminars. You can learn from experts to help you stay on the right track financially.

Good luck and we hope all your financial dreams come true. (*INQUIRER.net*)

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Jason meets idol Robin

Directline

By BOY ABUNDA
THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Pinoy Big Brother Double Up Bad Boy Jason Francisco is a big fan of Robin Padilla, the Bad Boy of Philippine Cinema. Jason acts, talks and dresses like his idol. And it looks like there is a mutual admiration between the two. Robin who was pleasantly surprised when he learned that Jason idolizes him said, "I am also a fan of Jason. Ang pasasalamat ko sa yo kapatid ay tanggapin mo dahil parang ako'y naging bahagi ng iyong pakikibaka sa Big Brother. You bet that the next time we see each other, you will not only get a T-shirt from me but my friendship as well."

Robin is looking forward to working with Jason, now dubbed, Principe ng Masa in future movie projects. "Who knows we might do a movie together," Robin added.

Jason was doubly excited when he learned that Robin only has the best words for him. "I am really very happy and proud of what he said. He is my idol. I wish I would be able to meet him and get to know him better. Sana nga po makita ko siya at maging kaibigan ko siya."

(Robin and Jason have already met. Robin even gave Jason a tour of his lovely home.)

Robin Padilla-Toni Gonzaga team-up

In the meantime, Robin Padilla



Robin Padilla

will be working on a movie under Star Cinema with Toni Gonzaga as leading lady. It will be directed by Binibining Joyce Bernal. "I like the script. But my director wants me to do kissing scenes. At kailangan ko daw mag-ensayo dahil puro hubad daw ang eksena ko," he said in jest.

It was a mixed reaction for Toni when told that Robin will bare and is now rehearsing for that scene. "Manunuod na lang ako habang nag-eensayo siya. I will enjoy it, for sure." On a more serious note, Toni said, "I don't want to think about it."

Robin assured that Toni is in good hands. "Sabi ko wag mag alalala at ako'y mahinahon sa bawat dampi ng aking labi," he teased.

There is no doubt that Toni is a bit pressured by her forthcoming movie with Robin. "It's really hard to think. There's pres-

sure but I am also honored and excited. I will do my best."

Juday's friends deny miscarriage rumor

Judy Ann Santos' friends deny that the actress who is now three months pregnant had a miscarriage. Julius Babao, ABS-CBN news correspondent, who interviewed Ryan on the miscarriage issue said, "There is no threat to her pregnancy. Walang katotohanan na si Juday ay nakunan."

Juday is a bit queasy with what she eats. "Hindi niya kaya yong lansa ng isda, sa gulay na may mga lasa hindi niya matitiis. I was surprised, hindi siya mahilig sa steak pero ngayon hinahanap niya karne," said Ryan.

Once, Juday craved for In and Out Hamburger which can only be found in America. Ryan had to shout out on his Facebook for friends who might be able to help him bring that much wanted In and Out Burger.

"Nag-text si Juday sa akin and she wanted In and Out Burger. Where can you find In and Out Burger in the Philippines. I asked her how many days do I have to be able to find one? And she told me, basta, hindi ka makakaalis."

After a few days though, some friends of Ryan who came home from America brought with them the burger Juday wanted. "She was ecstatic with joy. Pagkakata pa lang niya, nagtitili. I guess she was more happy with the fact that many people wanted to please her. More than the burg-

ers, I think it was the thought that made her happy."

Lately, Juday has been missing Ryan, always looking for him when they're not together. "Hinahanap ko yong amoy niya," Juday said. She loves to snuggle up to Ryan. She also said that she would not mind if it's going to be a boy or a girl "wag lang mukhang kili-kili," said Juday laughing. Juday is sensitive to smell as all infanticipating women are.

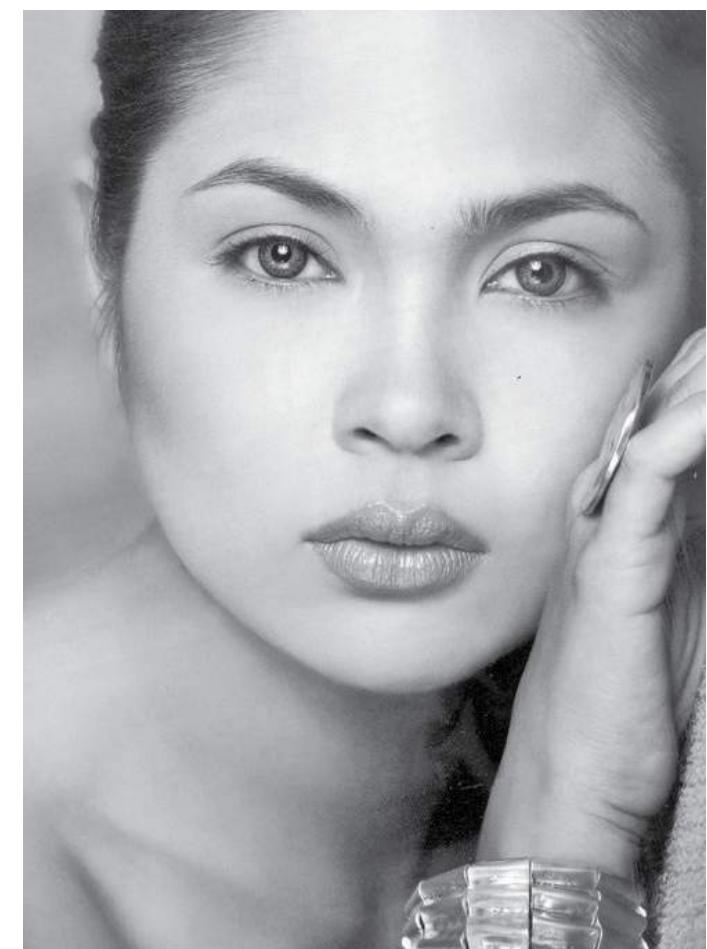
Anne Curtis' wardrobe malfunction

Anne Curtis' wardrobe malfunction while performing a dance number for A.S.A.P. XV created a stir in showbiz. Anne was with ABS-CBN talents in Boracay for the TV summer special of A.S.A.P. XV. The photos circulated on the Net and became front page news in tabloids. "It was an accident. Hindi ko sinasadyang mangyari," explained Anne.

Friends of Anne came to her rescue. "To have it on the front cover without blurring the image is extremely disrespectful," said Sam Milby.

Lawyer Joji Alfonso said that Anne can file a case for damages. "Sa akin the fact of the failure to blur can actually equate to malice. There's bad faith kasi yon nga kung gusto mo mag-practice ng responsible journalism in keeping with wanting to sell news then kahit papaano iba-balance mo yong interest ng dalawang parties."

Wardrobe malfunction can



Judy Ann Santos

happen to anyone. Marian Rivera had her breast exposure for three seconds when the strapless dress she wore while performing a dance number slipped accidentally. The late sultry singer Didith Reyes had a wardrobe malfunction that can put Janet Jackson's boob slip into shame. In one of her memorable performances, Didith's beautiful front popped that almost eclipsed her performance. She was accused of gimmickry, as the sultry singer was known to create stunts on stage. Hollywood stars Jennifer Lopez and Cameron Diaz had also their

share of wardrobe accidents. And most recently Katherine Heigl, star of the hit TV series Grey's Anatomy had an embarrassing moment when one of the straps of her gown broke while on stage delivering her acceptance speech. She was awarded Female Star of the Year at the ShoWest movie convention in Las Vegas. She had to be helped by the show's emcee who held her gown's strap in place while she finished her acceptance speech. Katherine nearly exposed her breasts and fortunately, caught the dress before it slipped.

Sunshine: Time to move on

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—My heart gets crushed every time I read Sunshine Cruz-Montano's Facebook status since her stepson Angelo passed away two weeks ago.

A few days after Angelo's cremation, Shine wrote on her FB wall: "I want to transfer to another house that doesn't have any memory of my stepson... But I know leaving this house wouldn't make any difference 'cause Angelo will always and forever be in our hearts and minds. It really is painful."

The other day, her status read: "Bohol-bound. Time to move on and campaign for Cesar. Angelo, this fight is for you and for your generation."

Even if Angelo didn't come from Shine's womb, he lives inside her heart. May the smiles of the kids that she and Buboy "adopted" in their Panaghay Children's Foundation somehow soften the blow and give them joy in knowing that even without Angelo, they can continue to be good

parents. And not just to their own kids, but also to the little ones of Bohol who need them most.

Krista Ranillo may be sued by a major company because she has failed to fulfill her obligations as an endorser of their product.

"Kahit isang event ng kumpanya, never siya sumipot," a top honcho laments. "Nakakontrata siya till 2011. Malamang palitan na namin siya as our image model."

Hmm... The controversial issue about her rumored affair with Manny Pacquiao still keeps hounding Krista. And now more trouble is coming her way. Is it her year of living and loving dangerously?

My heart goes out to Angel Locsin. All the negative write-ups about her are nothing but a smear campaign.

Just because she's seen hanging out in bars doesn't make her an alcoholic. In the same way that people inside a church are no saints.

Almost everyone in the biz can attest to how tame, simple

and kind she is. A colleague told me that she saw Angel help clean up a total stranger who collapsed at a bar.

Let's give her a break. She's one hard-working girl. After work, she more than deserves to enjoy and unwind. Good girls like Angel just wanna have good, clean fun.

A female neighbor of Dennis Trillo (who lives on the same street as I do) insists that she saw him and Jennylyn Mercado enter his pad together. Could this be a case of mistaken identity, or is a new romance brewing?

Are Dens and Jen trying to find out if they have more things in common than being single parents?

Is Rachel Ann Go leaving ABS-CBN's "ASAP" to join GMA 7's "Party Pilipinas?"

"I don't know what's going on," she says. "According to my manager, I will still meet with network executives to discuss offers. No final decision yet."

Will it be a GO for Rachel Ann?

Could it be true that Vice Ganda no longer wants to perform with other stand-up comedians and he prohibits the audience from smoking during his gigs? No vice allowed around Vice?

Aga Muhlach charmed the staff of Enchante (Oakwood, ADB Avenue) where he usually holds his business meetings.

"Pwede ba ko maglagay ng poster dito sa resto ng next movie ko?" Aga asked them in jest. "May manonood pa kaya ng movie ko?"

Paolo Bediones is overjoyed to be part of TV5. "My voice is heard in the network," he beams. "And I'm given more responsibility. Being able to do news and current affairs shows is something I've long missed. It will be an invigorated Paolo that you will see in my new home."

Has his heart found its home too? "I'm single, by choice and by circumstance."

The sought-after bachelor is out to seek even greater heights.

Police probe death of principal suspect in Nida Blanca's murder

By ABIGAIL KWOK
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines— "Why are all the principal suspects dying?"

This was the question posed by Philippine National Police spokesman Chief Superintendent Leonardo Espina upon learning of the death of Philip Medel, one of the principal suspects in the gruesome killing of actress Nida Blanca in 2001.

Medel supposedly died of natural causes Wednesday night at the Pasig City General Hospital. Dr. Alan Custodio of the PCGH said that Medel died of complications due to sepsis secondary to pneumonia.

But Espina, who was the former spokesman of Task Force Marsha, the body which investigated Blanca's murder, expressed doubts over Medel's death.

Because of this, the PNP

has ordered a formal investigation into Medel's death.

Espina said that PNP Director General Jesus Verzosa ordered the Eastern Police District to conduct a "thorough investigation to ascertain whether Medel died of natural causes."

"It is imperative to know the real cause of his death since he was a primary suspect," Espina added.

Verzosa was the former head of Task Force Marsha.

Another principal suspect, Blanca's husband Rod Strunk, allegedly committed suicide in 2007 in a Tracy, California.

"We are considering all the possibilities to erase all doubts surrounding [Medel's] death," Espina said.

Nevertheless, Espina said that he did not think that Medel's death would be detrimental to the ongoing trial to bring justice to Blanca, who was Dorothy Jones in real life.

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

The 'other' peninsula

It was 68 years ago today when Japanese troops finally overran USAFFE or United States Armed Forces in the Far East positions, maintained by Filipino and American soldiers, in Bataan. The stirring but ill-starred defense of the Bataan peninsula marked the high point of the resistance against the Japanese invasion. A grateful nation remembers it today for that reason, but also and mainly for forging, in the crucible of wartime defeat, an entire generation of martyrs.

The Japanese invasion of the Philippines was based on a 50-day plan; the strategic retreat into Bataan and the USAFFE's gallant stand delayed the Japanese Imperial Army's timetable by at least three months. Ferdinand Marcos later all but claimed credit for the delay. But the meaning of Bataan, hallowed by tradition in the last six decades, has been large enough to recover from the deceptions and false claims of a fake war hero.

This recovery alone should give all of us hope; the country's true history will assert itself, and Filipinos will remember what ought to be remembered, despite the machinations of those in power, or seeking power, today.

The extraordinary defense of Bataan is a genuine military milestone. Despite the military genius that Gen. Douglas MacArthur later displayed as supreme commander of Allied forces in the Pacific, he completely failed to protect the country from invasion. Even the retreat into the Bataan peninsula and into Corregidor, the strategic island that guards the entrance to Manila Bay, though called for by War Plan Orange, was not adequately prepared for. Thus, an under-provisioned, outgunned army scattered into Bataan, its chances of survival resting squarely on the hope that the United States, which had controlled the country since the turn of the century, would send the necessary reinforcements.

It was the Japanese, however, who received new troops, new equipment and new supplies. The invading army, while quick to use Davao as base for launching an attack on what was then called the Dutch East Indies, present-day Indonesia, needed to defeat the USAFFE in the field to make its occupation of the open city of Manila more than merely symbolic. After finally getting the reinforcements he asked for, the Japanese commanding general, Masaharu Homma, began his final offensive on April 3, 1942—Good Friday.

Bataan fell the following Thursday.

But while the months in Bataan helped swell patriotic pride—to dramatize their stubborn resistance and the dire straits they found themselves in, the defending soldiers learned to call themselves the Battling Bastards of Bataan (and MacArthur, quite unfairly, as "Dugout Doug")—it was what happened in the aftermath of surrender that left an indelible mark on the Filipino imagination.

The soldiers who surrendered were force-marched through the searing heat of mid-summer to a concentration camp in Central Luzon. Memoirs like those of Death March survivor Venicio Jalandoni help give us an idea of what those days must have been like. In "A Silent Sacrifice," Jalandoni recounts: "The 80-kilometer march [to San Fernando, Pampanga, not the final destination], taking roughly seven days of tortuous plodding, almost always started at six a.m. and went on through 11 a.m. with no rest in between. At noontime, no meals were served, and our captors forced us to sit on the dusty, sun-seared road until around 4 p.m. when the march would resume. The cadence was slow and arduous. We did not have any idea where we were going. We just followed the man right in front of us, until perhaps he would collapse on the road, and then we who were behind him became the leading marchers."

The torture did not end there. In San Fernando, Jalandoni and his fellow survivors (an ironic term, that) "were loaded into cattle cars and brought to Capas, Tarlac, and from there to Camp O'Donnell, the bivouac site of our battalion ... Never did I imagine that it would serve as a death camp for soldiers."

The historians Ricardo T. Jose and Lydia Yu-Jose, in "The Japanese Occupation of the Philippines," estimate that by late May 1942, "there were around five hundred deaths a day in the camp."

It was in these grim conditions that a people, taught to think in Christian terms by missionaries from another, farther peninsula, found a new generation of martyrs.

Class war

In the last week of January, surveys put the undecided voters at between 2 percent (Social Weather Stations), 5 percent (Manila Standard) and 6 percent (Pulse Asia). There are 50,723,734 registered voters for the May elections. The Commission on Elections expect an 80 percent turnout, or 40.5 million.

Historically Philippine national elections attract a relatively high participation rate of between 70 and 80 percent, compared to that of stable and older Western democracies, at a rate less than 60 percent. From this view, a high level of electoral election participation is an erroneous test of the stability of pluralist democracies that hold regular elections as an instrument of social and political renewal.

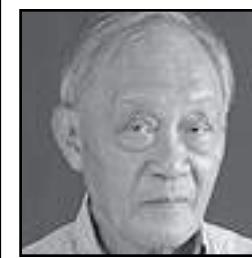
The above figures are being used by this paper to focus on, and illustrate, the issue that the portion of undecided voters indicates the social battleground on which the leading presidential candidates (notably Senators Benigno Aquino III and Manuel Villar) would fight to win over the undecided in the next months.

Classified according to income classes, 10 percent of the 40.5 million voters, belong to ABC classes, (the rich and upper middle class, the intelligentsia); 75 percent to the D class (lower middle class and the poor; and 15 percent to Class E, the poorest). The strategy of the leading contenders, especially Aquino and Villar, who were in a dead heat in the Pulse Asia survey, with 37 percent of respondents voting for Aquino and 35 percent for Villar, has been determined by what socioeconomic classes they were targeting in their campaigns. The two percentage points separating them pinpoints the area where they would be fighting tooth and nail, for at stake in this competition is 811,000 votes, representing the number of votes involved in the 2 percent lead of Aquino over Villar.

This indicates how closely fought the election race has become. The 811,000 votes are not a pittance. This explains why Aquino has drastically changed his campaign style and has become more aggressive and combative, to put Villar on the defensive. He is fighting to stop Villar from wiping his precariously narrow margin.

In the survey, Aquino led Villar 37-22 in the ABC Class and 40-34 in Class D, while Villar led 39-31 in Class D, which makes up 75 percent of the 40.5 million voters. These class statistics help explain why Villar has been flooding mass media, especially TV, with political ads addressed to the popular noon time TV shows—like "Eat Bulaga" and "Wowowee"—patronized by the poor. This is the class war that is taking place, in the homes of the poor.

Last Wednesday, Villar invaded the bastion of the Makati big business establishments, when he appeared at the Makati Business Club election forum to inform them of his policy platform, which has re-



Analysis

By AMANDO DORONILA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

mained hazy up to this time. He knew he was in hostile territory, but he also needs them although businessmen have fewer votes than the mass of Class E. He has learned from Joseph Estrada that the MBC was one of the strategic groups, including the army and the Catholic Church hierarchy, that withdrew support from him in EDSA 2 in 2001.

Though a billionaire, Villar is a nouveau riche and is not comfortable in the company of the old-money families dominating the MBC. He said he was happy to appear at the club "because I know I am not popular with the MBC, but I wanted to come here so that they will hear my views and see what I plan to do for our country. The business sector is important in ... alleviating poverty." He pitched this pro-poor line in an effort to disarm the MBC members.

A survey conducted from Dec. 8 to 18 in 2009, among 800 members, revealed that 61 percent would vote for Aquino. Villar received only 7 percent, lower than former Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro's 14 percent.

He said, "Given my background, my humble beginnings... I think it would be useful not to dwell on what makes us so different, but to point out what we have in common." He likened the election of a president to the selection of a business chief executive officer, who is a "true leader," taking into consideration the interests of all the company's stakeholders. "Our country has too many complex problems and too many competing interests it will need a strong leader with a proven track record to even have a chance." This was a swipe at Aquino, who has been criticized for lack of executive experience.

He promised a "strong and honest government," if elected.

When Villar was asked about the C-5 road extension project, some observers said he answered the question "reasonably well," but some said he failed to explain why and how he got embroiled in the controversy.

Villar also said he could not promise not to impose new taxes, unlike Aquino who told the MBC last month that he would not impose new taxes or increase tax rates if elected president. MBC executive director Alberto Lim said Villar made an "excellent delivery" of his platform, but gave "superficial treatment" to difficult issues.

"He was very impressive, but I don't think he changed people's mind," Lim said.

Peter Wallace, publisher of a business publication, had a different opinion. "I think there may be a significant shift in the MBC's mindset," he said, "as well as a shift in the thinking of the individual members after his presentation today."

The MBC will conduct another survey before the election. "We'll see if there have been changes since our last survey in December," Lim said.

The man behind EDSA

EDSA is a name that has gone down in history because of events that happened on one stretch of this long street in 1986. While all Filipinos know that EDSA is the acronym for Epifanio de los Santos Avenue, nobody seems to know who he was and what he did to merit having what may very well be the longest street in Metro Manila named after him. Some people vaguely remember him as a historian, or as one of the pre-war directors of the National Library of the Philippines where the auditorium is named in his honor. What did he do? What did he write? What is his claim to fame?

EDSA seems to have grown from many streets over a long time. It stretches about 24 kilometers, from the Bonifacio Monument or Monumento in Caloocan passing through Quezon City, Mandaluyong, Makati and Pasay with its southern end being the SM Mall of Asia, which is so huge that it has reduced what used to be the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong to "Mega-Small."

According to one source, the beginning of EDSA was a street during the time of Quezon known as "Junio 19," this date being the birthday of Jose Rizal. Then it was expanded into Highway 54, which makes us wonder what happened to the 53 other highways we don't know about. Finally, Highway 54 was renamed Epifanio de los Santos Avenue.

The late E. Aguilar Cruz of the Historical Institute once told me that when they were scouting around for a new name for Highway 54, it was suggested that it be named after a Filipino historian. Teodoro M. Kalaw had T.M. Kalaw Street in Manila already, so he was out. Then the other prominent historians—Horacio de la Costa, S.J., Gregorio Zaide, Encarnacion Alzona and Teodoro A. Agoncillo—were all disqualified because they were still alive and well at the time. So, the only historian conveniently dead and with no street named after him yet was Epifanio de los Santos. That's how we supposedly got stuck with EDSA.

To get to know Epifanio de los Santos Cristobal (1871-1928), the first source is the biographical profile in Volume 2 of "Filipinos in History" (NHI, 1990) and Teodoro A. Agoncillo's introduction to "The Revolutionists," a compilation of De los Santos' pre-war profiles of Emilio Aguinaldo, Andres Bonifacio and Emilio Jacinto (NHI, 1973).

Epifanio de los Santos was known by his nickname "Panyong," but in those days one could not be on familiar first-name basis with a man of



Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

his stature, hence he was often addressed or referred to as "Don Panyong."

Born on April 7, 1871 to Escolastico de los Santos and Antonina Cristobal, he attended the Ateneo Municipal and the University of Santo Tomas.

During the second phase of the Philippine Revolution, Don Panyong, together with Jose Clemente Zulueta, published the newspaper *Libertad* in Malabon. The paper stopped publication when their printing press was commandeered by the revolutionaries, and Don Panyong then joined the newspaper *La Independencia* edited by Antonio Luna. He was to continue journalism all throughout his life, contributing articles to publications like *El Renacimiento*, *La Democracia*, *La Patria* and *The Philippine Review* (a bi-lingual publication where his detailed profiles of historical personalities saw print both in Spanish and English).

He lived in his father's hometown where he rose, over time, from district attorney to governor of Nueva Ecija. It was there that he conducted much of the research and historical writing that led to his appointment in 1925 as director of the National Library succeeding Trinidad H. Pardo de Tavera.

It is said that he was a hands-on researcher as well as a hands-on director. Once when asked why he assisted readers in the Filipiniana division by going into the stacks and locating the required books and manuscripts himself instead of asking the staff, he was quoted to have said, "All of us here are servants of the reading public. I am the head of the servants and I must show that I know better than any of the servants where the materials are found. I want to show that our service here is efficient and that we are really working to serve."

Don Panyong found manuscripts relating to Andres Bonifacio in a chicken coup in Bataan, which led to the writing of his pioneering essay on the "Great Plebeian."

One can only wish we know more about Don Panyong's writing because one of his listed works happens to be "Fraudes electorales y sus remedios" (Election fraud and its remedies). It would have been very timely for the coming May 10 elections.

Comments are welcome in my Facebook Fan Page.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HARLEY DONATION

The Guam Police will be cruising for criminals on a state of the art Harley Davidson, thanks to Lt. Gov. Michael W. Cruz and Harley Davidson general manager Bill Neilson. The motorcycle, fitted with a police package, was donated to the Lt. Governor's office by Harley Davidson after it was unclaimed by the Micronesian island that originally ordered it. An avid motorcycle fan, Neilson hated seeing the state of the art "hog" gathering dust in storage and donated the bike to the Lt. Governor's office. After reviewing both the Airport Police and Guam Police, the Lt. Governor determined the latter was in greater need of the motorcycle. In a special presentation ceremony held Thursday, April 8, 2010, Cruz donated the Harley to Police Chief Suba, on behalf of the Guam Police Department.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SWEARING-IN

Department of Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta, standing center, poses with acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos and several DPL staff and friends moments after being sworn-in to his new post Thursday noon at the DPL office.

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos administers the oath of office to Secretary of Public Lands Oscar M. Babauta, as Babauta's wife, Lolita M. Babauta, looks on.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy birthday to Minda Indalecio, third from left, who celebrated her birthday last Saturday, April 3, 2010, at her residence at the Dandan homestead on Saipan. Greetings coming from the Sto. Niño Group of Saipan. Photo shows, from left, Jean, Mang Tony, Indalecio, Edna, Jonjon and Orly. Standing in front is Renren.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy belated birthday to our baby girl, KaniLani Lucil K. Laniyo, who celebrated her special day on April 9, 2010. God bless and we love you always! We hope you enjoyed your day with Spongebob!! Much love from mommy, daddy, n Franklin boi.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

DELEGATE CANDIDATE

Former Lt. Gov. Jesse Borja, carrying his granddaughter, poses in front of the Democratic Party's headquarters in Oleai with family members, friends, supporters, and party officials after submitting his letter of intent to run as the party's official candidate for CNMI delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives Thursday night.

YoungStyle



Jillian Beckman, 8, of Dallas, Texas looks in at one of many miniature rooms on display at the Thorne Miniature exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago on Thursday, March 18, 2010.

AP

devoid of people. It was a deliberate choice on Thorne's part, Morgan said, because she didn't want to ruin the illusion and have the rooms look fake.

"In lieu of them, she would put objects in to clue you in that someone had just been there," Morgan said. For example, glasses may be on a desk with an open book, chairs are pulled out from under desks and toys are left on the floor.

Vases are on a fireplace and tiny tea cups sit with a tea pot on a side table. There even are objects in some of the drawers, and one of the clocks actually works.

More than 500 sketches were made for certain pieces of furniture, mirrors, clocks, harps and chandeliers.

Adding to the precision approach, Thorne and her team of designers lit rooms according to certain times of day—some rooms are lighter and others darker. In other rooms, viewers can see parts of trees outside windows or portions of adjoining rooms.

All of this allows for acting out a fantasy life in miniature, Malone said.

"This idea of looking into a world, I don't know what that is subliminally that captures people, but it's sure age-old," Malone said. "It set my imagination off."

Miniature rooms create magic at Chicago museum

By CARYN ROUSSEAU
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—Third-grader Jillian Beckman and her grandmother Sally Beckman peered through the glass, looking at the miniature rooms at The Art Institute of Chicago before deciding that their favorite tiny pieces in the intricately crafted historic spaces were the beds.

"When you look at them, they're really realistic," 8-year-old Jillian said, after seeing the Thorne Miniature Rooms with her family while on spring break. "Even though they're small, it seems they're big. Like you can walk into the rooms."

The 68 rooms showcase European, American and Asian interiors and furnishings from the 17th century through the 1930s. They were largely created and commissioned between 1933 and 1937 by Chicago socialite Narcissa Ward Thorne (although she largely went by Mrs. James Ward Thorne).

The rooms, designed on a 1-inch to 1-foot scale, have titles like "English Great Room of the Late Tudor Period" and "Tennessee Entrance Hall." The family-friendly museum exhibit attracts many visitors with children.

More recently, the rooms have served as inspiration for author Marianne Malone, who used the collection as the setting for "The Sixty-Eight Rooms," a young readers' novel published in February by Random House. Malone's story follows sixth-graders Ruthie and Jack as they shrink so small they can explore the rooms themselves.

The book draws on Malone's childhood visits to the miniature rooms as

If You Go...

THORNE MINIATURE ROOMS: Located at The Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Ave., <http://www.artic.edu/aic/collections/thorne> or 312-443-3600.

MUSEUM HOURS: Monday-Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m., with free admission 5 p.m.-8 p.m.; Fridays, 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

ADMISSION: Adults \$18; children, students and seniors age 65 and up, \$12; children under 14 and museum members free.

THE SIXTY-EIGHT ROOMS: Author Marianne Malone: <http://www.mariannemalone.com/>

well as visits she made with her daughters. As she researched the novel, Malone found herself visiting the rooms another dozen times, checking on details.

"There's sort of a gripping in your stomach sometimes when you see something that really moves you and I felt that way about the rooms as a kid," Malone said. "They're so much better than any dollhouse I've ever seen."

The floor in the exhibit space has a raised step, so children can climb for a

glimpse into displays filled with dinner plates as big as thumbnails and sofas just inches long.

"It's something about being dominant over something that is so charming and diminutive," said Lindsay Mican Morgan, the exhibit's curator. "They can imagine and enjoy the style. I feel like kids, adults too, are able to take authorship and appreciate the style more this way."

It's not unusual to see three generations of a family visiting the rooms, said Malone, who divides her time between Urbana, Ill., and Washington.

Visiting the rooms with her granddaughter made the exhibit more exciting, said Sally Beckman.

"Just with their little eyes, what they see and what I see," said Beckman, of Toledo, Ohio. Her granddaughter's family was visiting from suburban Dallas.

Although she did some of the artwork, Thorne functioned as more of a funder and director of the project, Morgan said. Thorne would seek out top-of-the-line artists to execute each part of the rooms, such as rugs, wall paintings and ceiling carvings. Thorne donated the rooms to the museum before her death in 1966.

"Every little element of her life was devoted to the history of beautiful objects," Morgan said. "It was completely her passion, her whole life."

Thorne's vision teaches others to follow their own passions, Malone said.

"She could have just kept her little passion in a more accepted or conventional scale, but she didn't," Malone said. "She just really went for it."

While the rooms are filled with painstakingly chosen details, they are

Science Matters

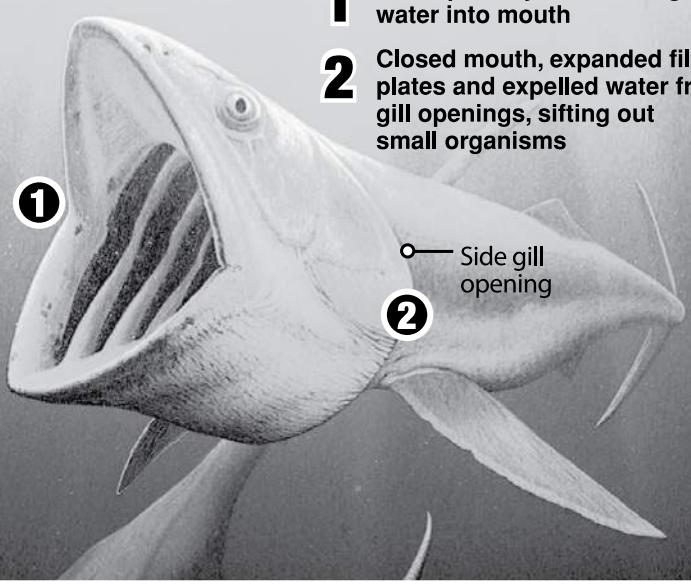
Evolution on two tracks

Fossils show that ancient fish could sift small organisms out of sea water – having evolved separately from baleen whales, and far earlier.

Filter-feeder: Evolved 170 million years ago

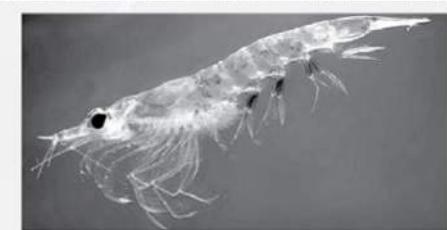
1 Fish opened jaws, drawing water into mouth

2 Closed mouth, expanded filter plates and expelled water from gill openings, sifting out small organisms



Their tiny prey

Krill, small shrimp-like crustaceans, abound in cold waters; in other waters, microscopic animals and plants (plankton) are abundant



Baleen whales: Evolved 35 million years ago

Do not have teeth; stiff protein combs sift small organisms from water

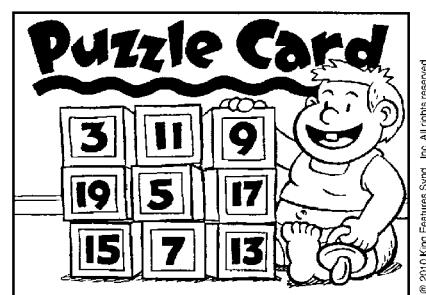
Whales evolved from land animals with teeth



Source: Science magazine

Graphic: Helen Lee McComas

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PRECOCIOUS PAUL can restack these blocks in one minute flat so that the numbers will add up to 33 across, down and diagonally. Can you match his speed?

Third row: 9, 19, 5. First row: 17, 3, 13. Second row: 7, 11, 15.

IT'S PARTY TIME! Can you solve this AlphaMath puzzle before the cake's finished? You must replace the letters on the side of the refrigerator with the digits 0, 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. Try to get the highest possible total.

FOR THE BIRDS! Can you find the four five-letter words in the word square on the right that match the definitions below? All words used must read the same both across and down.

1. To follow in pursuit.
2. A wading bird (given).
3. A large building.
4. A type of loud noise.
5. To make into law.

Answers: 1. Chase. 2. Heron. 3. Arena. 4. Sonic (boom). 5. Enact.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

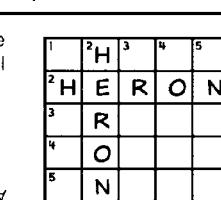
CAN YOU MAGICALLY SOLVE THESE FIVE PUZZLES?



WAND
SAND
SANK
SINK
SILK

With a wave of your magic pencil, see if you can change these five words in five minutes flat. In this type of puzzle, you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed WAND to SILK in four moves. See if you can change the following words in four moves each.

1. CASK to WINE
2. FUEL to HEAT
3. GULL to BIRD
4. WOOD to BURN
5. LARD to COOK



Answers: 1. CASK, CAKE, CANE, WANE, WINE. 2. FUEL, FEEL, HEEL, HEAL, HEAT. 3. GULL, GILL, GILD, GRILD, BIRD. 4. WOOD, WORD, WORN, BORN, BURN. 5. LARD, CARD, COOK, COOK.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was American journalist, satirist, critic and editor H.L. Mencken who made the following observation: "For centuries, theologians have been explaining the unknowable in terms of the-not-worth-knowing."

■ In a standard deck of playing cards, the only king without a mustache is the king of hearts.

■ If you ever make a trip to Alaska, you might want to keep in mind the fact that it is illegal there to wake a sleeping bear for the purpose of taking its picture.

■ Those who study such things claim that when a glass breaks, the cracks travel along the glass at a speed of more than 3,000 miles per hour.

■ You probably know that the Wright Brothers made the first powered airplane flight in Kitty Hawk, NC. It was Dec. 17, 1903, and Orville piloted the aircraft a total of 120 feet. You might not be aware, however, that the length of that flight is shorter than the wingspan on one of today's Boeing 747s.

■ An autumn visit to a corn maze in North Yorkshire in the United Kingdom last year turned disastrous for Anne Moon. When she reached her hand into a pen to pet a pig, the pig (named Ginger, incidentally) took Moon's hand into its mouth. The pig released the hand unharmed but kept the diamond out of the woman's engagement ring. The farmer who owned the attraction, Paul Caygill, then had to spend days searching for the gemstone in the pig's refuse.

■ The next time you're looking at a map and see a "you-are-here" arrow pointing to your current location, you'll know that the arrow is technically known as an ideo locator.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Sometimes the appropriate response to reality is to go insane." —Philip K. Dick

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MAGIC MAZE ● 20TH-CENTURY COMPOSERS

B J H E C Z X U B S Q N L J G
E C N I W H S R E G Z I X V T
R P N L J Y O H R E N C A Y W
Y V T R P R E L N O N L K I G
E S T R A V I N S K Y C B Z X
W U S G S R R U T T P O M L J
I G L U E E B D E R R B A Y X
W E U T B B E R I O A A S Q P
O N L R K E J I N I C C U P H
C H A V E Z D N A L P O C S G
F B D C L E V A R E L H A M S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Barber Chávez Holst Ravel
Berio Copland Mahler Strauss
Bernstein Debussy McCartney Stravinsky
Busoni Elgar Puccini

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

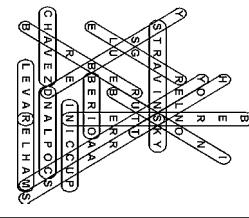
DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		11
+		x		-	
	+		+		15
x		+		x	
	x		-		3
20	25		5		
1	2	3	4	5	7
7	8	9			

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

20	25	5		
2	x	4	-	5
	+		x	3
x				
1	+	7	+	7
	x		-	15
+				
9	÷	3	+	8
				11

Lost pet leaves heartbreak behind

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My dog Coco, a small miniature Schnauzer, has been lost for six months now. I have tried to contact many people, such as the police, animal control and my vet, and placed posters around the neighborhood; however, nothing. It's very painful, the idea of not knowing how he is doing. I don't know if he is alive, or if I'll ever see him again. So what can I do about this situation?—Veronica, Hightstown, N.J.

DEAR VERONICA: I'm sorry to hear that your dog is still lost, Veronica. It's heartbreaking when a pet disappears.

You've tried contacting all the local resources possible, which is the recommended first step. You might want to check back in to animal control, as well as call around to shelters in a wider area to see if they have taken in a dog fitting Coco's description. If you have a picture, even better.

Several lost pet Web sites can be found online, as well. Pets911.com has a section where lost pets can be reported and found, or stray pets can be listed. Petfinder.com, perhaps the best-known service, also has a large lost-pets database.

A totally free service is www.missingpet.net, homepage of the Missing Pet Network, which is maintained by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

When listing your pet, be sure to



include his age, breed, coloring, size and weight, what type of collar and tag he's wearing, where he was last seen and any personality traits. If he answers to a certain call or likes a particular treat, mention that. Do not mention a reward in the listing. Consider also getting an e-mail account from one of the free e-mail services online and using it as your main contact.

Also, be on your guard against online theft. If contacted about Coco, don't give out credit card or Social Security numbers, your home address or other secure information.

■ ■ ■

Send your pet questions to Sam Mazzotta at ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet resources at www.PawsCorner.com.

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Prep kids early for making college picks

While millions of enthusiastic basketball fans recently made their "March Madness" college team picks, thousands of high-school seniors with acceptance letters in hand began the process of whittling down their final pick for the college they'll attend this fall. For them, it is another kind of ballgame. With a May deadline fast approaching at most colleges, these students are deliberating, crunching numbers, weighing the pros and cons, and some are even revisiting campuses in these final days. Big questions loom: Do I want to live near or far away from home? Sunshine or snow? Big city or small town? Will the educational and social environment be a good fit for me? And ultimately, how much will it cost?

A good college decision is made when preparation and thought are done well in advance of this major life step, according to Dr. Linda Parkyn, professor of Spanish at North Park University in Chicago, who assists parents of young teens in her "College 101" seminars. She believes parents can help students as young as middle-school-age to see a larger purpose in life and to view their education as preparation for their goals.

Here are practical tips to help your teens begin thinking about post-high-school and college planning:

1. Expose your children to a variety of people engaged in different types of careers, and talk actively about career choices and vocations. Tell them what you like about your job and explain what is challenging and rewarding.
2. Seek volunteer opportunities to con-



nect each of your children's dispositions, likes and dislikes with potential career options. Discover interests and service projects together, and look for exemplars who can model for your kids.

3. Present college not simply as a job-training site, but as another opportunity to gain tools, flesh out interests, try new things, meet interesting people and see a little more clearly who you are and what you enjoy.
4. Regularly remind your teens that even though the thought of one day attending college seems exciting, living in the moment and enjoying all that high school has to offer is very important. They will pass this way only once, so encourage them to live in the now while thinking and planning for the future.

And, for those students who need to decide by May ... good luck!

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.—Pierce Brosnan was sitting on the patio of a Beverly Hills restaurant sipping a beer recently when he was assailed by a gaggle of lively elderly women.

"You are gorgeous in person," exclaimed one lady with a thick New York accent who appeared to be in her 80s. "You look spectacular! I just got 20 years younger."

"You look gorgeous," Brosnan replied.

"Ugh! God, I'm in love. That's James Bond," she said, whispering to her friends as she shuffled away.

By the end of the spring, Brosnan, 56, will have appeared in five new films this year—but to some, he'll always be James Bond. It's been eight years since the release of "Die Another Day," the last of the four films

has also been Roman Polanski's "The Ghost Writer," in which Brosnan played an emotionally distant former prime minister, as well as his less dramatic turn as a bearded centaur in "Percy Jackson and the Olympians." Later this month, he'll serve as the narrator on the environmental documentary "Oceans."

The diversity in projects was a conscious choice, said Brosnan, who was dressed immaculately in a crisp button-up and blazer with nary a crease. His face too was virtually without wrinkles—his hair, peppered with just a hint of gray, was the only sign of his age.

"I said to my agents, 'Look, it's time to really work, and to find and explore other avenues here as an actor,'" he explained. "It doesn't have to be leading



Pierce Brosnan says he enjoyed going to the movies as youngster, but never thought of becoming an actor. "When I really thought about it, it was something much more highbrow. I saw a production of 'Antigone' at the Royal Court Theater in the days of La Mama and the Living Theater. I'd never been to the theater. I was 17. I saw this production which just stopped me in my tracks, and I began to read plays and joined an arts lab, a theater company, and that was it."

LIONEL HAHN/ABACA PRESS/MCT

screen personas in part by forming his own production company, Irish DreamTime, in 1996, for which he's overseen eight films, with more in the pipeline.

"The company was also a good way to take things that might not come down the stretch," said Beau St. Clair, a partner in the company. "You can create new avenues for yourself because this town is so much like, if you play an assassin, you get assassin scripts. You've gotta keep going, 'Oh, no, look over here, see this? I can do this.'"

Ewan McGregor, Brosnan's costar in "The Ghost Writer," said he admires the actor's exploration. "I like what Pierce has done since he's left Bond," McGregor said. "He's really playing interesting roles and characters we haven't seen him play before. I think he's enjoying a real golden age."

But Brosnan, who is remarried and has five kids, three from his first marriage and two boys with his current wife, bristles at the thought that to some—like the group of women who had passed by earlier—he's a movie star. Instead, he opts to describe himself as a working actor.

"Movie star? Clint (Eastwood) is a movie star. Jack (Nicholson) is a movie star," he said. "If I'm called a movie star, then great. I certainly wanted to be one. I dreamt about it, in my own quiet way. I definitely have played the leading man, but I also see myself as a character actor—a working actor. It just fits me well. It gives me a grounding."

Pierce Brosnan is moving far beyond James Bond

By AMY KAUFMAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

in which Brosnan reprised the iconic role of the unstoppable spy who loves women, fast cars and nifty gadgets. Just as one of his predecessors, Sean Connery, was able to leave behind the Bond role later in his career, Brosnan too is hoping that audiences will eventually be able to see him as more than just the international man of mystery.

That effort is reflected in Brosnan's latest spate of work. His most recent film, "The Greatest," on which he also served as a producer, tells the story of a father grappling with the death of his son. It shares in the serious tone of March's "Remember Me," in which he was embattled in a different kind of father-son relationship with teen heartthrob Robert Pattinson. There

roles. Let's not be tripped up by past information. It's time to try and have longevity as an actor."

It was a move that surprised even the director of "The Greatest," 33-year-old Shana Feste.

"Initially, we never thought we could get someone like Pierce, with me as a first-time director on a low-budget film. It was the jackpot of actors for us," said Feste. "You associate him with Bond and this very GQ, slick, sexy persona, but he's actually a real chameleon and I don't think mainstream audiences have seen that yet."

In reality, Brosnan has been distancing himself from that image since one of his first big post-Bond roles, 2005's "The Matador," for which he received a Golden Globe nomination for

his turn as an eccentric, burned-out hit man.

"At the time, I was definitely still very connected to the image and the history of Bond," he said. "Even when I was in it. It just lives with you. It permeates your life. And you know that going in, but the reality of it—the overcoat is really large, and can be quite heavy at times. So you have to break the shackles of that."

Greg Kinnear, who also starred in "Matador" and will play opposite Brosnan again in the upcoming "Salvation Boulevard," described the role as "the best thing that could have happened" to Brosnan.

"I was sitting there watching this man painting his toenails purple and be completely fearless," he said. "I don't think he

was even consciously reinventing himself. I just think of him more as a character actor than as a franchise player."

Brosnan began exploring his passion for the arts as a teenager in England (where his Irish Catholic family moved when he was 11). After leaving school at 16, he found a home at the Oval House Theatre, then an English arts lab.

"I had a romantic notion of being in the movies, but the reality was in finding an education for myself and finding an articulation of speech and passion for myself as an actor," he said. To help find that identity, Brosnan enrolled at the Drama Centre in South London. After leaving, he landed work with such acclaimed directors as Tennessee Williams and Franco Zeffirelli. Then in

1981, he and his wife, Cassandra Harris (who died of ovarian cancer in 1991) took out a second mortgage on their Wimbledon home to afford a move to the U.S. A year later, Brosnan landed a role on the NBC detective series "Remington Steele," which would run until 1987 and make him an American star.

"I was trained and led to believe, as a young actor out of drama school, that I could play anything," he said. "And you come to America and find yourself in a TV series—which I am forever grateful for because it allowed me to have the career that I've got—but I never expected to be branded so. Or to be pigeon-holed."

He's tried to separate his identity from his more recognized

Oprah Winfrey plans nighttime show on her network

NEW YORK (AP)—Calling her new venture "the network built on great intentions," Oprah Winfrey says her sleeves are rolled up to make the Oprah Winfrey Network "all that I know it can be."

What will those great intentions look like? Speaking to media buyers Thursday at a presentation by partner Dis-

covery Communications, Winfrey filled in a few of the gaps that have left people wondering just what her round-the-clock network will be since she announced it in January 2008.

She took her audience through a dozen or so new shows planned for OWN after its launch next Jan. 1, and offered reassurance that she

would be appearing on the 24-hour network she'll also be guiding from behind the scenes.

After reigning in daytime for a quarter-century, she moves to nights to host a show called "Oprah's Next Chapter" that will release her from the confines of a studio and talk-show format for conversations and travel around the world.

"I'll do it anywhere, I'll do it anytime, with anybody I want," she summed up saucily. Expected to air two or three nights a week, "Oprah's Next Chapter" is scheduled to premiere in late 2011. That will be shortly after Winfrey lays to rest her weekday syndicated talk show at the close of its 25th season, a milestone she had said "feels

right in my bones" when she made her plans official on the air last November.

A joint venture of Winfrey's Harpo Inc. and Discovery Communications Inc., OWN: The Oprah Winfrey Network will replace the Discovery Health Channel and be available in approximately 80 million homes.



Winfrey

Sex Pistols' former manager McLaren has died at 64

LONDON (AP)—The former manager of the Sex Pistols and one of the seminal figures of the punk rock era, Malcolm McLaren, died Thursday, his son said. He was 64.

Joe Corre, his father died of an aggressive form of cancer in Switzerland, declining to

give the exact location.

"He was the original punk rocker and revolutionized the world," Corre told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "He's somebody I'm incredibly proud of. He's a real beacon of a man for people to look up to."

McLaren is best known for his work with the Pistols, whose violence, swearing, and antiestablishment antics shocked Britain and revolutionized the music scene. The band's chaotic career owed much to their manager's talent for self-promotion.

Nancy Kerrigan's brother charged with manslaughter

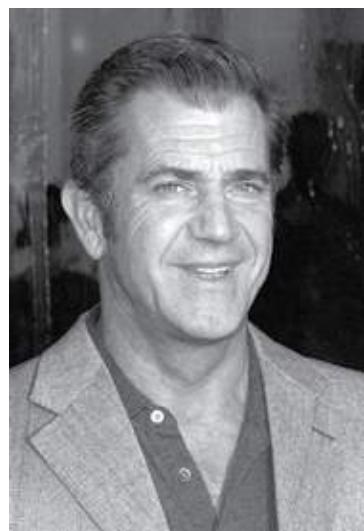
BOSTON (AP)—The brother of figure skater Nancy Kerrigan was charged with manslaughter in the death of their 70-year-old father in what prosecutors called a drunken rage during a trivial argument over use of the family telephone, the Middlesex district attorney's office said Thursday.

Mark Kerrigan, 45, was indicted by a Middlesex Superior Court grand jury in the Jan. 24 death of Daniel Kerrigan.

He had already been charged with assault and battery on an elderly person resulting in serious bodily injury. Since being released on bail after a psychiatric evaluation, he has been liv-

ing with his mother in the family's Stoneham home, where the alleged assault took place.

Mark Kerrigan's "reckless actions and complete disregard for his father's safety and well-being" led to his death, District Attorney Gerry Leone said in announcing the indictment.



Mel Gibson to donate movie sets to Mexican museum

In this Oct. 29, 2007 file photo, actor Mel Gibson arrives at the premiere of American Gangster in Los Angeles. AP

VERACRUZ, Mexico (AP)—The governor of the Mexican Gulf coast state of Veracruz says Mel Gibson will donate sets from the movie he's currently filming to a future museum.

Gov. Fidel Herrera says several sets were built inside the Ignacio Allende prison in the port city of Veracruz and that the jail will be converted into a museum once Gibson is done filming.

In January, 1,500 inmates were trans-

ferred out of the prison to make room for Gibson's film, which began production this week and is tentatively titled "How I Spent My Summer Vacation."

Herrera made the announcement Thursday.

Gibson filmed his 2006 Mayan-language movie "Apocalypto" in Veracruz.

Herrera said Gibson also donated some of the sets from that movie.

Disowned Picasso painting to have US debut in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—A painting disowned by Pablo Picasso is expected to have its U.S. debut in a major exhibit of his work at New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art, though it's unlikely to be a highlight of the show.

Questions have been raised about the authenticity of the painting, which is called "Erotic Scene" and shows a naked woman nestling her head in a man's lap.

But the Met's curator of 19th-century, Modern and contemporary art says that wasn't the reason it had been kept in storage since being acquired in 1982. Curator Gary Tinterow says it was simply "not very good." He calls it "slapdash."

Maybe that's why Picasso said the painting was "a joke by friends."

Tinterow says Met researchers confirmed it was by Picasso before including it in the show of 300 works opening April 27.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Discovery, Spielberg to debut 'Future Earth'

NEW YORK (AP)—The Discovery Channel says it is working with Steven Spielberg on an animated series imagining life in the future. The network said Thursday that "Future Earth" will be a miniseries showing what life might be like in 25, 50 and 100 years. Futurists and scholars will be consulted for their predictions to incorporate in the series. The miniseries is expected to air in late 2011. Clark Bunting, president of both the Discovery and Science channels, says he hopes to work Spielberg and his DreamWorks production companies on future projects as well.

'Family Ties' actor Bonsall sentenced to probation

BOULDER, Colo. (AP)—Former "Family Ties" actor Brian Bonsall has been sentenced to two years probation after pleading guilty to charges connected to a fight with a friend last year in Colorado. The 28-year-old actor entered his plea Thursday in Boulder to felony menacing

Kate Gosselin returning to TLC with new series



In this publicity image released by ABC, Kate Gosselin, left, and her partner Tony Dovolani perform on "Dancing with the Stars," Monday, April 5, 2010 in Los Angeles. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Kate Gosselin is launching a series that will profile everyday women facing personal challenges.

"Twist of Kate" will follow the reality star and supermom as she visits the homes and workplaces of her subjects, where she will exchange insights for living. The 12-episode season will premiere in late summer, the TLC network said Thursday.

The single mother of young twins and sextuplets, Gosselin will also revisit her family life for a series of "Kate Plus 8" specials beginning in June.

Kate and her then-husband Jon starred for several seasons in the hit reality series "Jon & Kate Plus 8," which collapsed last fall as the couple's marriage fell apart.

This week, Jon Gosselin sued his ex-wife for primary custody of their eight children.

Gosselin's attorney, Anthony List, has previously accused Kate Gosselin of neglecting the children because she appears on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars," a charge her attorney rejected as "patently false."

and third-degree assault. Bonsall also pleaded guilty to violating terms of probation stemming from a 2007 assault on his girlfriend and was sentenced to five days in a work-release program and 40 hours of community service. Bonsall had tested positive for marijuana. His attorney told a judge Bonsall has substance abuse issues. Bonsall played the youngest son, Andy Keaton, on "Family Ties," starring Michael J. Fox.

'Jersey Shore' producers looking for Persians

NEW YORK (AP)—The production company behind "The Jersey Shore" is looking for Persian-Americans. 495 Productions and Doron Ofir Casting have announced that they're casting a "Persian version" of the MTV hit reality show about young Italian-Americans partying at the beach. The casting call, which Gawker.com first reported, seeks applicants who are 21 or older, "appear younger than 30 and are outrageous, outspoken and a proud Persian-American." A spokesman for

495 Productions didn't reply to questions about whether the show had any TV network deal. "The Jersey Shore" is in production for a second season. Numerous attempts have been undertaken to mimic it, including a Russian-American version set in Brooklyn's Brighton Beach that doesn't yet have distribution.

Macy, Rossum starring in Showtime's 'Shameless'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The long-running British TV drama "Shameless" is being adapted for Showtime with William H. Macy and Emmy Rossum leading the cast. The premium cable channel said Thursday it's ordered 12 episodes of the series about a Chicago blue-collar family. The executive producers are the drama's original creator, Paul Abbott, and John Wells, whose credits include "ER" and "The West Wing." Allison Janney ("The West Wing") will have a recurring role. Macy's films include "Fargo" and "The Cooler," while Rossum starred in "The Phantom of the Opera." Produc-

tion begins late this summer. An air date was not announced.

MTV's 'Jersey Shore' headed back to New Jersey

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Jersey Shore" without New Jersey? Forgetaboutit. While the cast of the popular MTV reality TV series may have begun filming the second season in Miami, Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi and company will indeed return to the Jersey Shore for the remainder of production this summer, MTV spokeswoman Emily Yeomans said Thursday. The show follows the boozy exploits of hard-partying twenty-somethings at a shore house. The original eight "Jersey Shore" cast members—Polizzi, Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino, Paul "DJ Pauly D" DelVecchio, Jenni "JWoww" Farley, Sammi "Sweetheart" Giancola, Ronnie Ortiz-Magro, Vinny Guadagnino and Angelina Pivarnick—will return to pump their fists, but a casting notice posted Tuesday was looking for possible new additions to the cast. The second season is scheduled to premiere July 29.

Students making campus visit should come prepared

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: This is a time when high school seniors visit prospective colleges. Could you please convey the following suggestions to them?

1. Wear comfortable shoes. You will be doing an awful lot of walking.

2. Come prepared for the weather. Twelve hundred people attended a recruiting session today, and at least one-fourth of them did not come with umbrellas. A thunderstorm began at 4:00 p.m., and they wondered why we didn't provide umbrellas!

3. Come with a list of questions and bring something to write on, plus a tote bag to carry any materials you receive.

4. Read the materials you were sent. If they say check-in begins at 8:00 a.m., then plan to be there at 8:00 a.m.

5. You will be receiving a lot of information, so you should plan on making a return trip to the two or three institutions you visited that you liked the most.

6. We will show you one or two residence hall rooms. We cannot show you all of the halls. In order to inspect them all, you will need to come on a Residence Hall Open House day.

Thank you, Abby.

DEBBIE IN ADMISSIONS

DEAR DEBBIE: On the contrary—thank YOU for a "tip sheet" every college-bound senior should see. Better to be prepared than be without.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a junior in high school, and I'm worried about my friend, "Elizabeth." She has always been a Type-A overachiever, but for the past year and a half, she has been more stressed than usual.

School consumes Elizabeth, but not in a good way. She stays up until 3 a.m. cramming for tests even though she studies for several days before. She gets angry and depressed when she doesn't get an A on an assignment. She puts a lot of pressure on herself, and her parents don't seem to recognize it.

My friend doesn't sleep much and eats very little. At first, I told myself that I was overreacting by worrying about her. However, last night she was hospitalized for exhaustion and anemia. She's fine now, but the stress and unhealthy habits have caught up with her. I'm afraid she'll go right back to her detrimental lifestyle.

I believe Elizabeth needs help and I'm thinking of talking to a guidance counselor. What should I do, Abby?

DISTRESSED IN KANSAS CITY

DEAR DISTRESSED: You are a good and caring friend. Talk to the guidance counselor. Your friend's sleeplessness, stress, anemia and poor diet may come from more than pressuring herself to achieve good grades. She may need professional help—and the guidance counselor may be able to see that she gets it.

DEAR ABBY: I work in a pharmacy. Every day people try to hand me their cell phones to talk to their family members, doctors or insurance company.

I will NOT touch their filthy, germy phones. If I did, I'd be risking my own health! What is a polite response?

HOLD THE PHONE IN ARIZONA

DEAR HOLD THE PHONE: A polite response would be: "Does your phone have a speaker feature? If so, please turn it on. If not, then please have your family member, doctor or insurance company contact the pharmacy, and someone will be glad to help them."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write **Dear Abby** at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: **Dear Abby - Teen Booklet**, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



Dear Abby

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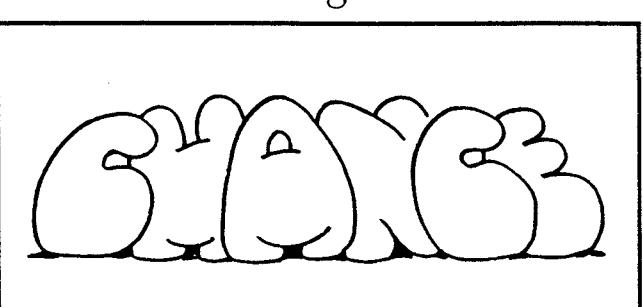
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Woods back, better than ever to start Masters

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Tiger Woods played like the last five months never happened.

Even more surprising, he felt that way, too.

No longer the same person after he was caught cheating on his wife, Woods looked every bit the same golfer Thursday when he opened with a 4-under 68—his best first round ever at Augusta National—that left him only two shots behind 50-year-old Fred Couples on an extraordinary opening day at the Masters.

It just didn't seem that way to Woods.

Standing on the first tee, looking down a fairway lined with thousands of spectators curious to see how he would respond to a sex scandal that shocked the world, Woods didn't flinch.

"It felt normal," he said. "Try to hit a little fade off the first tee, try to take something off of it and make sure I got it in play. That was about it. From there, I just went about my business."

Indeed, he was the same Tiger.

He pledged to control his emotions on the course, yet there was little change. Woods twirled his club after a good drive, slammed it after a few bad ones. He pumped his fist after making the first of two eagles and sunk to his knees when he missed a birdie putt on the 16th that slowed his climb up the leaderboard.

And just like always, he complained about not making enough putts.

"Otherwise, it could have been a very special round," Woods said.

Yet it was special in so many ways.

Couples, who played a practice round with Woods on Monday, sauntered along in tennis shoes and no socks and shot a 6-under 66. It was his best score ever at the Masters and made him the oldest player to be the outright leader for any round.

"I never really thought about what I was shooting," said Couples, who already has won three times this year on the 50-and-older Champions Tour. "It was a fun day for me. I still think I can play, and if I putt well I've got to be some kind of factor in my mind."

Tom Watson, at 60 the oldest

player in this Masters, picked up from his amazing ride at last year's British Open with a bogey-free round of 67 that left him tied with Lee Westwood, Phil Mickelson, PGA champion Y.E. Yang and K.J. Choi.

"My goals were to play better than I've played in the last five or six years, and I achieved that for the first round," Watson said. "I'm playing pretty well. I've said I have to play better than 90 percent to be successful on this golf course."

Still, this day was always going to be about Woods.

He had not hit a competitive shot in 144 days, since winning the Australian Masters on Nov. 15 for his 82nd victory around the world. A four-time Masters champion, he has never come to Augusta National with so much uncertainty—about his game, and mostly how fans would respond to a player whose impeccable image had been shattered by tawdry tabloid tales of sex.

The patrons were on their best behavior, as expected at the most polite tournament in golf. Augusta National can't control the perimeter of the course, however, and a couple of planes tooted banners that poked fun at Woods—one for his pledge to get back to Buddhism ("Bootyism," the banner said), another mocking claims he needed therapy as a sex addict.

On the ground, the gallery was mostly positive, with a few exceptions.

"He doesn't have the right character and integrity to represent golf," Larry Isenhour said. "That's why I came out early this morning to applaud Jack Nicklaus."

Nicklaus, the six-time Masters champion, joined Arnold Palmer as an honorary starter. The two old rivals hit the ceremonial tee shots to open the Masters, and chairman Billy Payne said, "The 2010 Masters is now officially begun. Have fun."

And they did.

Clouds moved in quickly and kept the sun from baking out the greens, and some of the hole locations allowed for birdies. The low scores weren't a surprise, only the names next to them.

Watson had two birdies in three holes to put his name on the lead-



Tiger Woods reacts to missing a birdie putt on the 16th green during the first round of the Masters golf tournament in Augusta, Ga., Thursday, April 8, 2010.

AP

erboard and bring back memories of his magical run at Turnberry last summer when he missed an eight-foot putt on last hole of regulation and then lost in a playoff at the British Open. He never went away this time, never made a bogey and wound up matching his best score ever at Augusta.

"I don't know if you can put an age on how anybody is playing, but he's playing like one of the best players in the world right now," said Steve Marino, who played with Watson, as he did in the third round at the British.

Mickelson came to the Masters for the first time without having finished in the top five all year, but he looked as comfortable as ever, particularly on the back nine with an eagle-birdie-birdie stretch that put him atop the leaderboard at 67.

"I do love this place," Mickelson said. "I don't have to be

perfect. I can miss a shot and still recover. It relaxes me when I go down Magnolia Lane."

Westwood, Europe's top player, had only broken 70 twice in his Masters career until running off seven birdies for a 67.

Throughout the morning, however, anticipation was building toward Woods' return. A single row of fans stood behind the ropes along the first fairway a half-hour before Woods teed off. When he approached the green, the crowd stood 10-deep in spots, a gallery that included European Tour chief George O'Grady and about 15 people from Woods' circle—his mother, friends, employees, Nike chairman Phil Knight and other sponsors.

Given all that transpired over the last five months—revelations of his womanizing, the loss of sponsors and a shattered reputation—it figured to be as

nervous as Woods has been over an opening tee shot since his first as a pro.

"Fore, please. Now on the tee, Tiger Woods," the starter said.

The crowd let out a spontaneous cheer, and more applause followed when Woods found the fairway. "One of the best drives I've ever seen him hit," swing coach Hank Haney said.

From there, it looked as though Woods had never been gone.

"I got into the flow of the round early," Woods said. "Got into the rhythm of just playing, making shots, thinking my way around golf course."

Nothing required more thought than the ninth hole, where Woods hit the signature shot of his return to golf. He hit his drive too far left, blocked by the pines, and studied his options. A high soft shot into the breeze? A sweeping hook

run," Pace said. "I think it would be pretty positive for us."

While his best days are clearly behind him, Taylor still has plenty left. He had seven sacks, an interception, three forced fumbles and a fumble return for a touchdown last season.

Taylor played with the Dolphins from 1997-2007 before playing one season in Washington. He returned to Miami last season with a one-year contract, and said he wanted to keep playing, preferably with the Dolphins, rather than retire.



Jets meet again with free agent LB Jason Taylor

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)—Jason Taylor is dancing with the enemy.

The free agent linebacker and six-time Pro Bowl pick with the Miami Dolphins met with the New York Jets for a second straight day Thursday as coach

Rex Ryan tried to add the NFL's active sacks leader to last season's top-ranked defense.

"Hopefully we can bring him along for the ride," linebacker Calvin Pace said. "I think it would be a great situation for him."

The 35-year-old Taylor, who was in town with his wife, Kaitina, was expected to take until this weekend at the earliest before deciding on whether to sign with New York. The former "Dancing With the Stars" contestant—he finished run-

ner-up to Kristi Yamaguchi in 2008—has had a contentious relationship with Jets fans during his 13-year career, calling them ignorant and classless.

"I think our fans would embrace him," defensive end Shaun Ellis said. "They know the type of player he is. There may be some fans who wouldn't at first, but after a few weeks and he was on our team, I think they'd be really excited just to add another part like that to our defense."

Added Pace: "I think once he puts the green and white on, all that other stuff will be in the past."

Taylor has expressed a desire to remain with the Dolphins, where he has spent 12 of his 13 NFL seasons. Miami general manager Jeff Ireland said the team will wait until after the draft before deciding whether to make an offer, but Taylor's visit with the Jets raises the possibility he might make a decision before then.

"I'm not going to air our business through the media," Ireland said of Taylor and his agent, Gary Wichard. "They know exactly our stance. ... We have to evaluate things after the draft. That's where we're at."

The 2006 Defensive Player of the Year with 127 1/2 career sacks would provide the Jets with a proven pass rusher and might fit right into Ryan's aggressive scheme. "He can do a lot of different things: drop in coverage, rush the passer and he's pretty good against the



Nuggets hold off Lakers for 4th straight win



DENVER (AP)— Carmelo Anthony scored 31 points and had a game-saving block at the buzzer, helping the Denver Nuggets hold on for a 98-96 win over a Los Angeles Lakers team playing without Kobe Bryant on Thursday night.

With time winding down, Anthony stuffed Derek Fisher's shot as Denver won its fourth straight.

The slumping Lakers gave Bryant the night off to rest a swollen right knee and an aching right index finger. Los Angeles has now dropped four of its last five games, but remains in control for the top seed in the Western Conference playoffs. The Lakers need just one more win in their last four to wrap it up. Either that or a Denver loss.

J.R. Smith came off the bench to score 26 points, including five 3-pointers, while Chauncey Billups added 12.

The Lakers were led by Paul Gasol, who finished with 26 points and 13 rebounds.

The Nuggets took advantage of the Bryant-less Lakers, racing out to a 15-point lead in the third quarter. But it didn't last as the Lakers came roaring back, reclaiming the lead.

However, Nene's free throw with 1:22 remaining put Denver

ahead for good.

Not that there wasn't plenty of drama at the finish.

Like, for instance, the deflection call the Lakers felt went the wrong way.

With about 18 seconds left and Denver clinging to a one-point lead, Shannon Brown swatted away a shot by Smith, grabbing the rebound and sending an outlet pass to Fisher.

But Billups broke it up, with the ball glancing off Fisher's fingers before going out of bounds.

The officials ruled it Nuggets ball, and upheld the decision after glancing at the monitor.

Smith made one of two free throws to extend the lead to 98-96. Fisher had a chance to tie, but Anthony blocked his shot.

In the process, though, Anthony twisted his ankle. As the Nuggets celebrated, Anthony hopped around the court in pain.

With the win, Denver moved a full game in front of the Utah Jazz for the Northwest Division lead. The Nuggets also remained in contention for the second seed, staying in a tight race with Phoenix, Dallas and Utah.

Anthony showed no effects from the knock he took the night before in Oklahoma City. The All-Star forward rammed head first into Kevin Durant's chest in the third quarter, momentarily blacking out. Anthony returned

in time to help the Nuggets rally for the win over the Thunder.

Smith was on target most of the night, hitting 5 of 11 shots from 3-point range. His long jumper late in the second quarter was a significant one, sending him past Michael Adams for the franchise's all-time lead in 3-pointers made. Smith celebrated by skipping down the court.

Chris Andersen returned to action Thursday after missing the last two games with a sprained left ankle. The forward who provides a burst of energy off the bench finished with seven boards and two blocks in more than 25 minutes.

Before the contest, Lakers coach Phil Jackson hinted he may try to rest Bryant with the playoffs looming.

The Cavaliers took a similar approach earlier Thursday, resting LeBron James against Chicago with the league's best record already secured.

Bryant has quite a bit of company when it comes to bumps and bruises. Ron Artest has been playing with a bruised left heel and a sprained left thumb, while Brown has a sprained right thumb and Sasha Vujacic a sprained right shoulder.

Artest had 22 points against Denver, while Brown contributed 12 off the bench.

Andrew Bynum remains

sidelined with a strained left Achilles'. Bynum said before the game that he's steadily progressing, but doesn't know when he will be back. He injured the tendon on March 19 against Minnesota.

Jackson said he doesn't want to rush Bynum back too soon, even if it means resting him into the playoffs.

Bulls 109, Cavaliers 108

In Chicago, the hosts survived some shaky free-throw shooting down the stretch to beat a Cleveland team minus LeB-

ron James.

Derrick Rose scored 24 points and Kirk Hinrich had 23 as the Bulls moved into a tie with eighth-place Toronto in the Eastern Conference. The Raptors hold the tiebreaker, but with Chris Bosh injured, Chicago's chances are looking good.

The Bulls prevailed even though Rose and Luol Deng each missed two free throws in the final 15 seconds.

Cleveland's Mo Williams scored a season-high 35 points on a night when James was rested.

Kings 116, Clippers 94

In Sacramento, California, Sacramento snapped an eight-game losing streak while extending Los Angeles skid to seven.

Tyreke Evans had 28 points, six rebounds and seven assists for the Kings, who saw their 16-point halftime trimmed to eight after three quarters.

Sacramento had a 16-2 to run to start the fourth in pushing their lead to 100-78. It was the first time in nine games that the Kings topped 100 points.

Chris Kaman scored 23 points for the Clippers.

Anderson steers A's past Mariners



O A K - L A N D , California (A P) —

Oakland's Brett Anderson held Seattle scoreless into the seventh inning to set up the Athletics' 6-2 win over the Mariners in Thursday's American League West clash.

Anderson struck out four and walked one to take the win.

Daric Barton drove in a career-high four runs for the A's.

Twins 10, Angels 1

In Anaheim, California, Brendan Harris hit a tiebreaking two-run homer as Minnesota thumped Los Angeles.

Jim Thome drove in three more runs with his 565th career home run.

The Angels' 1-3 start is their worst for 18 years.

The Twins already have nine homers, and have gone over the fence in each of their first four games for the first time since 1997.

Tigers 7, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Missouri, Miguel Cabrera homered and drove in four runs to lift Detroit over Kansas City.

Tigers starter Dontrelle Willis turned in six solid innings in his first regular-season start in almost 10 months.

Willis, plagued with chronic wildness during his shortened 2009 season, walked the first batter he faced on four pitches. But the former two-time National League All-Star issued only one more base on balls and had four strikeouts, giving up two runs.

The Royals bullpen blew three saves in the season-opening three-game series against the Tigers.

Blue Jays 3, Rangers 1

In Arlington, Texas, Toronto rallied with three runs in the ninth to beat Texas.

Rangers closer Frank Francisco failed in his first save attempt of the season. He gave up a leadoff homer to Vernon Wells — his fourth homer in three games — then a triple, the go-ahead sacrifice fly and an RBI single.

Orioles 5, Rays 4

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Baltimore starter Brian Matusz al-

lowed only two runs over five innings to steer the Orioles past Tampa Bay.

Matusz overcame control problems to win his fifth straight decision, dating back to last season. The left-hander walked a career-high five but also struck out seven.

Garrett Atkins drove in a pair of runs with a single during a four-run sixth that gave the Orioles a 5-2 advantage. Baltimore had loaded the bases with no outs on a single, hit by pitch and walk.

Indians 5, White Sox 3, 11 innings

In Chicago, Asdrubal Cabrera hit a tiebreaking, two-out single in the 11th inning to boost Cleveland over Chicago.

Grady Sizemore drove in three runs for the Indians, who moved over .500 for the first time since 2008.

Cabrera's single in the 11th scored Luis Valbuena from second. Sizemore followed with his second RBI double of the night.

Reds 2, Cardinals 1

In Cincinnati, Jonny Gomes' solo homer with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning lifted the Cincinnati Reds to their first win of the season, over the St. Louis Cardinals.

Gomes connected on a 2-2 pitch from Jason Motte (0-1), brought into the game to face him.

Francisco Cordero (1-0) pitched a perfect ninth in relief of Bronson Arroyo, who went the first eight innings and singled home a run.

After scoring 17 runs in the first two games, the Cardinals managed only four hits in the series finale, including Matt Holliday's first homer.

Dodgers 10, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Ronnie Belliard homered among three extra base hits and drove in four runs to help Los Angeles avoided being swept in a three-game series by Pittsburgh for the first time in 10 years.

The Dodgers played without middle-of-the-lineup hitters Andre Ethier (left ankle) and Manny Ramirez (day off), but still got 16 hits off four Pirates pitchers. Reed Johnson doubled among three hits and

Nationals 6, Phillies 5

In Washington, Ryan Zimmerman drove in the tiebreaking run off new Philadelphia reliever Nelson Figueroa with a shot to shallow right field that landed inches fair, as the Washington avoided a season-opening, three-game sweep.

Willie Harris hit a two-run homer for the Nationals, and Tyler Clippard (1-0) earned the victory with 1 2-3 innings of relief. Matt Capps worked around Chase Utley's leadoff double in the ninth for his first save with Washington.

Figueroa (0-1) was added to the roster Thursday after being waived by the Mets.

Cubs 2, Braves 0

In Atlanta, Randy Wells pitched six scoreless innings and Carlos Marmol stranded two baserunners in the ninth inning as Chicago blanked Atlanta.

Rookie Tyler Colvin and Marlon Byrd homered for Chicago, which had only four hits.

Wells (1-0), who combined with four relievers on the eight-hit shutout, outpitched Tommy Hanson (0-1) in a matchup of top 2009 rookies. The Cubs avoided a three-game sweep.

Atlanta's Chipper Jones left the game after the third inning with a sore right side and is listed as day to day.

Marlins 3, Mets 1

In New York, Nate Robertson pitched five solid innings in his first start for Florida in eight seasons.

Jorge Cantu hit a tiebreaking RBI double in the fifth and Gaby Sanchez added a run-scoring double in the sixth for Florida, which took the last two of the three-game set after losing 7-1 on opening day.

The Mets wasted an effective outing by Jonathon Niese (0-1), who allowed three runs and eight hits in six innings.

Jeff Francoeur hit an RBI double in the fourth but that was all New York could manage against Robertson (1-0).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	49	29	.628	—
Toronto	38	40	.487	11
New York	28	50	.359	21
Philadelphia	26	52	.333	23
New Jersey	11	67	.141	38

Southeast Division

y-Orlando	55	23	.705	—
x-Atlanta	49	29	.628	6
x-Miami	44	34	.564	11
x-Charlotte	42	36	.538	13
Washington	24	54	.308	31

Central Division

z-Cleveland	61	18	.772	—
x-Milwaukee	44	34	.564	16 1/2
Chicago	38	40	.487	22 1/2
Indiana	30	48	.385	30 1/2
Detroit	25	53	.321	35 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-Dallas	51	27	.654	—
x-San Antonio	48	30	.615	3
Houston	40	38	.513	11
Memphis	39	39	.500	12
New Orleans	35	44	.443	16 1/2

Northwest Division

x-Denver	52	27	.658	—
x-Utah	51	28	.646	1
x-Oklahoma City	48	30	.615	3 1/2
x-Portland	48	30	.615	3 1/2
Minnesota	15	63	.192	36 1/2

Pacific Division

y-L.A. Lakers	55	23	.705	—
x-Phoenix	51	27	.654	4
L.A. Clippers	27	52	.342	28 1/2
Sacramento	25	54	.316	30 1/2
Golden State	24	54	.308	31

x-clinched playoff spot

y-clinched division

z-clinched conference

Yesterday's Games

Chicago 109, Cleveland 108
Sacramento 116, L.A. Clippers 94
Denver 98, L.A. Lakers 96

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	2	1	.667	—
Tampa Bay	2	1	.667	—
Toronto	2	1	.667	—
Baltimore	1	2	.333	1
Boston	1	2	.333	1

Central Division

Minnesota	3	1	.750	—
Cleveland	2	1	.667	1/2
Detroit	2	1	.667	1/2
Chicago	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Kansas City	1	2	.333	1 1/2

West Division

Oakland	3	1	.750	—
Texas	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Los Angeles	1	3	.250	2
Seattle	1	3	.250	2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	2	1	.667	—
Florida	2	1	.667	—
Philadelphia	2	1	.667	—
New York	1	2	.333	1
Washington	1	2	.333	1

Central Division

Milwaukee	2	1	.667	—
Pittsburgh	2	1	.667	—
St. Louis	2	1	.667	—
Chicago	1	2	.333	1
Cincinnati	1	2	.333	1
Houston	0	3	.000	2

West Division

San Francisco	3	0	1.000	—
Arizona	2	1	.667	1
Colorado	1	2	.333	2
Los Angeles	1	2	.333	2
San Diego	1	2	.333	2

TEAM

From Page 28

after flying out on his first try at bat. Center fielder Jay Camacho and shortstop Floyd Dela Cruz also helped the team's cause with their impressive performance at bat. Camacho was 4-for-5 and scored three runs and four RBIs, while Dela Cruz went 4-for-4 and tallied four runs and three doubles.

Berdax 17, Blazers 14

In the first game, Berdax survived the Blazers' strong start to pull off

Yesterday's Games

L.A. Dodgers 10, Pittsburgh 2
Cincinnati 2, St. Louis 1
Washington 6, Philadelphia 5
Chicago Cubs 2, Atlanta 0
Florida 3, N.Y. Mets 1
Toronto 3, Texas 1
Detroit 7, Kansas City 3
Oakland 6, Seattle 2
Baltimore 5, Tampa Bay 4
Cleveland 5, Chicago White Sox 3, 11 innings
Minnesota 10, L.A. Angels 1

MASTERS SCORES

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP)—Scores Thursday from the Masters golf tournament, played at the par-72 (36-36), 7,435-yard Augusta National Golf Club:

Simon Dyson 38-39-77
Ben Crenshaw 40-37-77
Ross Fisher 39-38-77
Oliver Wilson 40-38-78
Byeong-Hun An 39-39-78
Chris Wood 41-37-78
Craig Stadler 42-37-79
Chad Campbell 38-41-79
Chang-won Han 39-40-79
Anders Hansen 39-41-80
Jim Furyk 36-44-80
Henrik Stenson 41-39-80
Ian Woosnam 41-40-81
Michael Campbell 41-42-83

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

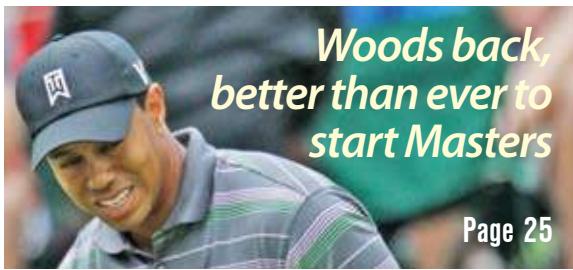
BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Natibus 14 0
Man Amigos 15 1
Island Rebels 13 2
SaiPal 11 3
Chura 11 4
San Roque 9 4
Ur Balls 10 5
X-Terminators 10 7
Freedom Air Flyers 8 6
Calikano-Falcons 8 8
Hitz 7 7
6-Pack 7 7
Go For Broke 6 10
Berdax 5 9
Blazers 5 11
Lancheros 3 10
Red Eye 4 12
G-Ballers 3 12
Ramblers 3 12
Team Familia 2 12
Team Fuegu 1 14

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL LEADERS

(As of March 20, 2010)

BATTING
(Based on 38 or more times at bat)
Players Team AB H AVE.
Shane Yamada Freedom Air 43 33 .767
Jerry Ayuuy Man Amigos 41 30 .732
Oliver Secharmidal Ur Balls 48 34 .708
Jess T



61

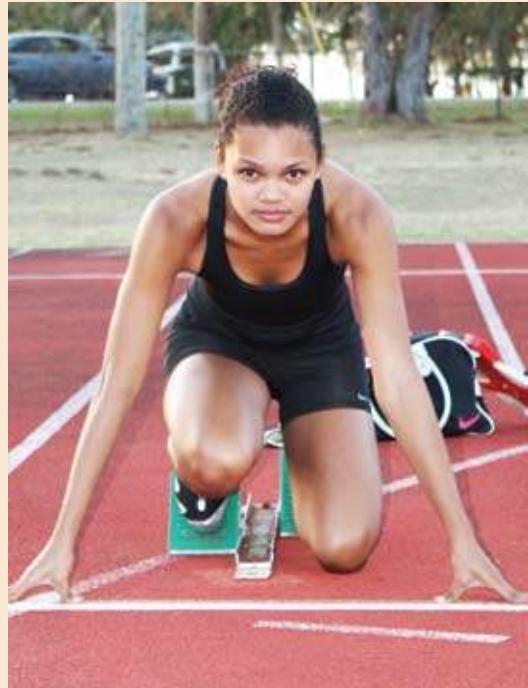
days
to go



28 SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

13 make Micro Games grade



Bennett



Omar



Ogumoro



Ichihara

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Thirteen athletes met the qualifying standards for the athletics competition in the 2010 Micronesian Games.

Twin sisters Yvonne and Yvette Bennett lead the list of athletes who made the grade for the quadrennial meet set for Palau this August.

Yvonne qualified for the 100m run after clocking in at 13.18 seconds in the first qualifying tournament held



last March 27 at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility.

Yvette, meanwhile, timed in at 13.39 seconds. The qualifying standard for the women's 100m is 14 seconds.

Joining the Bennett siblings are Tyrone Omar, Dennis Ngirchongor, Ryan Ichihara, Michael Manao, Trevor Ogumoro, Jesus Iguel, Ronald Olopai,

Jeneque Benavente, Lia Rangamar, Nick Gross, and Mamiko Berger.

Ichihara and Ogumoro qualified for two events. Ichihara first made the grade in the men's 100m run with his qualifying time of 11.67 seconds. He posted the third best qualifying time of the day. Omar, who once ran 10.99 seconds in the 100m sprint, owned the best qualifying time in the 100m run, submitting 11.10 seconds. Ngirchongor logged the second best at 11.30 seconds. The qualifying time for the men's

See 13 MAKE on Page 27

Team Familia ends drought in Chamolinian league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Team Familia won the battle of cellar dwellers in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League after downing Fuegu, 25-17, on Wednesday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Team Familia and Fuegu are in the



last two spots in the team standings in the 21-team league with the former enjoying a better record at 2-12 against the latter's 1-14. The victory snapped Team Familia's nine-game losing streak in four months. Team Familia broke into the win column on Dec. 7 when it prevailed over Berdax, 21-14.

An 11-run top of the second allowed Team Familia to recover from a slow start and take a 12-2 lead after two complete innings. Third baseman Kolin Reyes and catcher Jun Alepuyo led Team Familia's attack in the second inning with the former hitting a three-run homer and the latter connecting on a two-run round-tripper

See TEAM on Page 27

Mahi Fishing Derby set today



As many as 40 boats from Saipan and Tiniian are expected to take part in today's 6th Annual Mahi Fishing Derby.

The sporting event, organized by the Saipan Fishermen's Association and the Marianas Visitors Authority, will have participating boats and their crew launch from Smiling Cove Marina as early as 6am. They have until 5pm to return to port and weigh their catch.

The derby will consist of five cat-

egories. Cash and in-kind prizes will be awarded for all top five finishers, including \$1,500 for first prize. The entry fee is \$100 for one captain and a crew of three, with an additional \$25 per angler.

Spectators are invited to see the day's catch as fishermen begin returning to Smiling Cove Marina at about 4pm on derby day. The awards banquet will take place after the derby at the marina weigh station from 6pm to 9pm.

Registration forms are available at the MVA office, Fishing Tackle in

See MAHI on Page 27



An angler from the Mahi Fishing Derby a couple of years ago shows off his prize catch.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E Singles/Mixed Doubles Badminton tilt kicks off tonight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Badminton Association will be opening hostilities in the 2010 IT&E Singles/Mixed Doubles Badminton Competition tonight with 41 players entered in the tournament to be played at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

There will be three categories in the tournament that will run from April 10 to May 1—men's singles, women's singles, and mixed doubles. The men's singles and mixed doubles are divided into three categories: A, B, and C. The women's singles will only have Division B competition.

All divisions will have a single round-robin format in the elimination round with the Top 4 teams advancing to single elimination playoffs. However, teams with undefeated records in the elimination round will have a twice-to-beat advantage in the semifinals. The semis pairing will be the No. 1 team against the No. 4 squad and No. 2 vs. No. 3 teams.

In case of ties for the Top 4 spots, a set point system will be implemented wherein each team's sets won will be added to determine the semifinalists.

Games in the singles and mixed open doubles competition will be played on weekends with Friday and Saturday matches to run from 6pm to 10pm. Sunday's games will be from 5pm to 10pm.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Roger Vales is seen here in action during NMBA's team tournament late last year. Tonight, NMBA will be kicking off the 2010 IT&E Singles/Mixed Doubles Badminton Competition at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

The Top 3 placers in each division will be awarded with either trophies or medals and cash prizes. The date and venue for the awards ceremony will be announced later.

See IT&E on Page 27